

Florida

1963-64 Hunting Season
Rules and Regulations

Fishing • Hunting
• Conservation •
Outdoor Recreation

WILDLIFE

NOVEMBER, 1963

The Florida Magazine for all Sportsmen

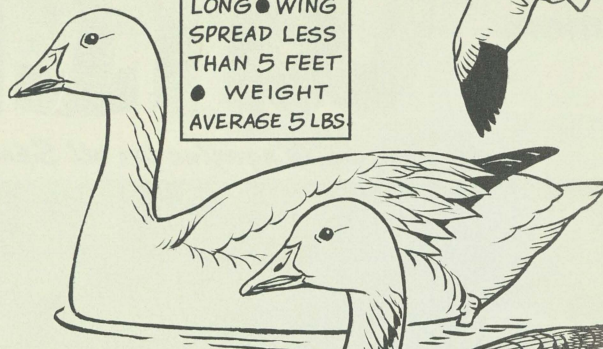
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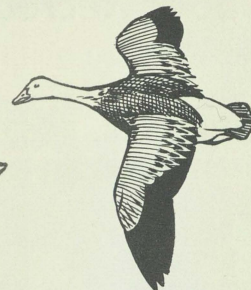
FLORIDA

SNOW GOOSE

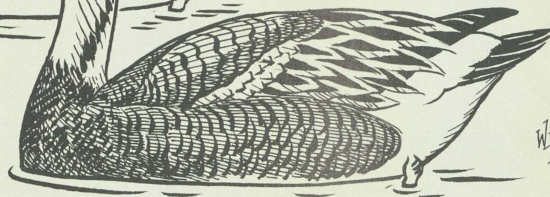
PURE WHITE
WITH BLACK
WING TIPS
● SIZE LESS
THAN 3 FEET
LONG ● WING
SPREAD LESS
THAN 5 FEET
● WEIGHT
AVERAGE 5 LBS.



KNOW YOUR FLORIDA WATERFOWL



SNOWS AND BLUES ARE UNCOMMON VISITORS TO FLORIDA FROM OCTOBER TO MARCH ● USUALLY SEEN IN COMPANY OF MORE COMMON CANADA GOOSE ● BLUE GOOSE HAS WHITE HEAD AND GRAY-BROWN BODY ● SAME SIZE AS SNOW GOOSE

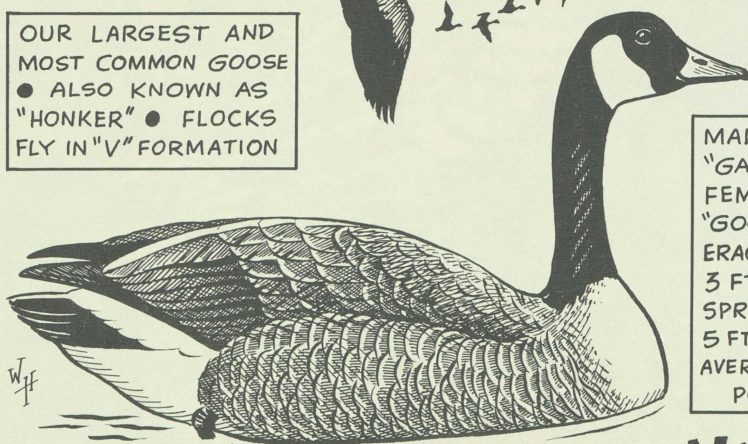
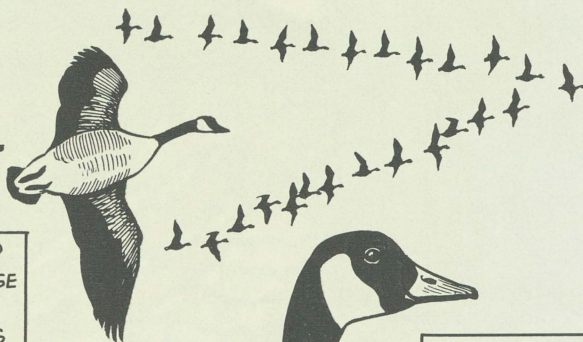


BLUE GOOSE

FLORIDA GAME AND FRESH WATER FISH COMMISSION

KNOW YOUR FLORIDA WATERFOWL

OUR LARGEST AND MOST COMMON GOOSE
● ALSO KNOWN AS "HONKER" ● FLOCKS FLY IN "V" FORMATION



MALE IS A "GANDER" ● FEMALE THE "GOOSE" ● AVERAGE LENGTH 3 FT. ● WING SPREAD OVER 5 FT. ● WEIGHT AVERAGE 8½ POUNDS

CANADA GOOSE

FOUND IN NORTH & WEST FLORIDA FROM MID-OCTOBER TO MARCH ● RARE IN SOUTH FLORIDA ● UP TO 14,000 WINTER EACH YEAR AT ST. MARKS NAT'L. WILDLIFE REFUGE IN WAKULLA CO

FLORIDA GAME AND FRESH WATER FISH COMMISSION

WILDLIFE SCRAPBOOK

★

Published monthly by the
FLORIDA GAME AND FRESH WATER FISH COMMISSION
Tallahassee, Florida

★

Dedicated to the
Conservation, Restoration, and Protection of our Game and Fish

★

BILL HANSEN, Editor

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Florida Wildlife is published monthly by the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, Tallahassee, Fla. Single copy 25¢; subscription rate \$2.00 per year. Changes of address should be reported promptly. Unsolicited pictures and editorial material will be handled with care, but Florida Wildlife cannot assume any responsibility for loss or damage of same. Permission to reprint any material in this publication will be granted to responsible parties upon application to the editor. Entered as Second Class Matter Nov. 8, 1947, at the Post Office at Tallahassee, Fla., under the Act of Aug. 24, 1912.

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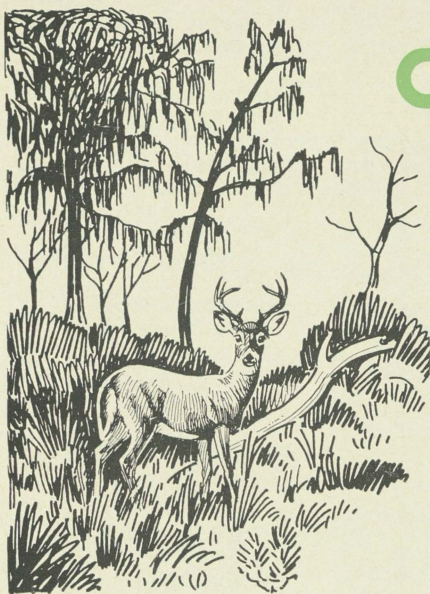
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CONSERVATION SCENE

Space Age Wildlife Refuge Near

Merritt Island Launch Area

A BY PRODUCT OF THE space age is literally going to the birds—ducks, in fact.

Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall announced recently the signing of an agreement with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration establishing a 25,500-acre National Wildlife Refuge on Merritt Island marshlands that were acquired by NASA just north of Cape Canaveral as a buffer zone between the Merritt Island Launch Area and the densely populated mainland of Florida.

The Merritt Island Launch Area is the site for construction of launch facilities for NASA's manned flights.

The new Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge is the first major waterfowl refuge on the east coast of Florida. Its marshes and surrounding waters comprise a wintering area of major importance to waterfowl in the Atlantic Flyway. Concentrations of up to 500,000 lesser scaup have been observed in the brackish waters of Indian River, Mosquito Lagoon, and Banana River. Numerous ponds provide excellent habitat for many species of waterfowl, including pintails, widgeons, ring-necks, teal, and coots, plus a variety of egrets and herons.

The waterfowl value of the marshes within the new refuge is being enhanced by the develop-

ment of mosquito control impoundments by the Brevard County Mosquito Control District. Under natural conditions of irregular flooding, these marshes have been notorious breeding places for salt marsh mosquitos. In recent years, it has been demonstrated that impounding the marshes by means of low dikes can effectively eliminate mosquito breeding and, at the same time, produce attractive waterfowl habitat. The agreement between Interior's Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration establishing the refuge recognizes the need for continuing mosquito control in the area and provides for full coordination of the Bureau's waterfowl program with that of the Brevard County Mosquito Control District.

Interest in establishing a refuge in this area dates back many years. When the accelerated refuge acquisitions program began in 1958, the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife—which will administer the refuge—placed the Merritt Island area high on its list of proposed refuges. Purchase of the area by NASA paved the way for the establishment of the refuge which is expected to meet the need for a major waterfowl refuge on the east coast of Florida.

Ducks At A Distance

THE DEPARTMENT OF THE Interior recently urged that every waterfowl hunter taking to the field this fall equip himself with a thorough knowledge of the ducks and geese he seeks.

This year's waterfowl regulations again stress the need for hunters to recognize their quarry before they pull the trigger. Enforcement officers probably will take a dim view of excuses that a hunter shot the wrong duck by "mistake," the Department said.

To assist hunters this year, the Department has published a handy 24-page color waterfowl identification guide, "Ducks at a Distance." Copies can be purchased for 25 cents each from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C. 20402.

The Department noted that sportsmen's clubs, conservation groups and other organizations can obtain a special 25 percent discount on all orders of 100 copies or more.

The Fish and Wildlife Service said "Ducks at a Distance" was especially prepared to show waterfowl in their fall migration colors and to portray the birds from the same perspective that hunters see them in the wild.

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THE COVER

Florida's Bobwhite Quail—At right, the Eastern Bobwhite, *Colinus virginianus*, (male, upper; female, lower) common resident across north Florida, south to Gainesville-Palatka areas. At left, the Florida Bobwhite, *Colinus virginianus floridanus*, throughout the peninsula, north to Gainesville, and on the east coast to Anastasia Island.

From A Painting By Wallace Hughes

SPECIAL NOTICE!

SUBSCRIPTION RATES for FLORIDA WILDLIFE will be increased, for the first time in over ten years, on January 1, 1964.

The reasons for this necessary increase are multiple. Major factors are the production and postal cost increases over the years. Add to that the Commission's desire to continually improve this publication, with limited funds, and it becomes necessary to offset a few of the added costs with a slight subscription rate increase.

FLORIDA WILDLIFE is a non-commercial information-education publication, produced for a specific purpose, at a set annual cost established by the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission. Subscription revenue pays about one-third the overall production costs. To expand and improve publication quality, subscribers are asked to assist through the subscription rate increase.

Current subscription rates will remain effective through December 31, 1963. Subscriptions—new, renewals, extensions, and holiday gifts—will be accepted at the rates shown on the outside back cover, per the dates specified above.

Revised rates, and new subscription order blanks will be available with the December issue, around mid-November. ●

HUNTING REMINDER

HUNTERS ARE REMINDED that the deer hunting regulations for extreme northwest Florida for the 1963-64 season have been set to conform with Eglin Field regulations.

In Okaloosa, Walton, Escambia, and Santa Rosa counties the first part of a special season begins November 16 and ends December 1. The second part begins December 14 and ends January 1.

For the remaining counties of the third region, except Washington and Holmes which have no open season, the deer hunting regulations this year allow hunting every day from November 16 through January 12.

Only buck deer with one or more five-inch antlers are legal.

Begins On The Land

Conservation Education

By ERNEST SWIFT

National Wildlife Federation

NOT TOO MANY DECADES ago in the wooded farming regions of this country, "putting up" wild berries for the winter larder ranked close in importance to a productive garden and the general farm harvest. Many village and farm children of three score years ago can remember what they deemed at the time the drudgery of berry picking, and then fondly recall the compensating aroma of juicy pies and elixir of jam on homemade bread.

Toward the latter part of June thrifty housewives sent the family exploring the neighboring brushland, backpastures and woods to see if the late frost had nipped the blueberries and to scout the choicest raspberries. Johnny was told to be on the watch when he went out after the cows or down to the creek fishing, but not to tell the neighbor kids what he found.

Blueberry pie for the Fourth of July was a sort of seasonal landmark, then followed raspberries, and toward the first of August came the blackberries.

The small fry of the family were always recruited for berry picking. Sometimes the menfolk were impressed into service, but generally there was hay to put up, or even some fancied chore; and not a few secretly felt it was a task for the women and youngsters—but they always ate the berries.

Few youngsters followed their mothers to the berry patch with any great enthusiasm, but providing against short rations during the winter months was one of the disciplines of growing up in those bygone days.

Pails varied in size according to the age of the picker, with a stout cord or an old harness strap around the waist to hold the pail so that both hands could be used to gather berries.

The grownups wore big straw hats, sometimes with mosquito netting round them; and mothers always carried an extra 12-quart milk pail so there would be no need of quitting too soon. If there were no springs handy a jug of water with a carrying strap through the handle was toted along. The jug always became terribly heavy before the berry patch was reached, and there was always a cautious word not to hit it on a rock. Seldom was there a lunch unless the distance was so great that the trip had to be made with horse and buggy.

On arrival at the scene of operation the first admonition was, "Now don't start eating berries right away or you'll never fill your pail—time enough for that when we get back to the house."

I can still see some of the old forest burns shimmering in the heat; acres and acres carpeted with a sheen of purple blueberries, and hanging from the low bushes like clusters of small grapes. One could sit and pull them off by the handful.

Then hordes of deerflies would come—they stung almost like a bee—to add to the discomfort of a lethal mid-summer sun.

But blueberry picking in my country was not altogether a family affair. I vividly recall the four-horse teams and the huge wagons that passed by our homestead hauling crates of berries to the distant railhead from the blueberry camps on the Indian

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MUZZLE FLASHES

Hunting Preparation

Hunting season tips on gun
care, lubrication, and
sighting-in the big game rifle

By EDMUND McLAURIN

IN HUNTING, IT IS only good sense to take advantage of the maximum effective trajectory or bullet flight path of a given cartridge load. Otherwise, the practical use range of your rifle will be considerably limited.

For most of the popular big game calibers, like .30-06, .270 Win., .280 Rem. and .308 Win., a bullet impact point of 2½ to 3 inches above point of aim usually gives most advantageous application at all practical hunting ranges between muzzle and approximately 225 yards.

What—as a reader writes—if one does not have access to a range that will permit any sighting-in firing beyond 50 yards? In such case, the rifle should be sighted-in at 50 yards so that bullets hit above point of aim to the extent that efficient use will also be had at other average hunting ranges, without changing the rear sight's elevation or the shooter's manner of aim.

If you have a big game rifle to sight-in for the season ahead, and have only a 50 yard firing range on which to do it, the following basic sighting-in information should prove helpful and ammunition saving:

Caliber	Bullet Load	Sight-In at 50 Yards so that Bullets Hit	Rifle Then Zeroed For Approximately
.244 Rem.	90 gr.	¾" high	225 yards
.270 Win.	130 gr.	1¼" high	225 yards
.270 Win.	150 gr.	1¼" high	225 yards
.30-06	150 gr.	1" high	225 yards
.30-06	180 gr.	1¼" high	225 yards
.280 Rem.	150 gr.	1¼" high	225 yards
.308 Win.	150 gr.	1" high	225 yards
.308 Win.	180 gr.	1¼" high	225 yards
.35 Rem.	200 gr.	1½" high	175 yards
.30-30 Win.	170 gr.	1¼" high	175 yards
.32 Win. Spec.	170 gr.	1¼" high	175 yards

For the average shooter, who does only seasonal firing of a large caliber rifle, the ballistics tables published in the gun catalogs are apt to be somewhat puzzling. It takes actual firing over known ranges to truly understand bullet performance in relation to hold and sight picture.

Hunting rifles of the rimfire class should be sighted-in with high velocity ammunition (not Magnum loads) so that bullets hit one inch above point of aim after 50 yards flight. This will give a zero of 75 yards, and only about 3 inches of bullet drop at 100 yards.

In an effort to make basic ballistics factors more easily understood, the Marlin Firearms Company several years ago introduced a sighting-in guide, made in the form of a heavy cardboard wheel around which the ballistics of the more common center fire calibers were given revolving window presentation. Although practical, the guide just didn't fit the shooter's coat pocket; therefore, it was usually left at home on the days most needed.

Far better is the new pocket-size version of the same guide, now rectangular in shape, size 6½ inches long by 3¾ inches wide, with heavy plastic jacket. Designed on the principle of a slide rule, with window openings, it can be set and read within seconds. You simply slide an inner, printed card until the caliber and bullet weight you are interested in is lined up with an information slot cut in the plastic jacket.

Besides such interesting factors as muzzle velocity and energy of a given bullet weight in a particular caliber, the guide tells you the best range to sight in for; gives in fractions of an inch the path of the bullet above or below line of sight at distances from 50 yards to 350 yards, including zero yardage point. New as well as long popular calibers are charted.



Sighting-in your hunting rifle to take advantage of the maximum effective trajectory or bullet flight path of a given cartridge load will pay off at both short and long range.

Like the original version, the new sighting-in guide sells for \$1, on direct order from the Marlin Firearms Company, New Haven, Connecticut.

To their credit, and the good they do the shooting game educationally, more and more local clubs are conducting annual Sighting-In Day clinics.

On designated days, hunters—whether they be big game addicts or simply squirrel shooters—are invited to visit local club ranges and sight-in their hunting rifles with the assistance of qualified instructors among local club personnel.

Quite often a round of deliberate, large caliber rifle firing at a running deer target winds up the activity. There is nothing wrong with this finale except that it rarely prepares the rifleman-hunter for the average thick brush conditions under which he will later hunt.

The woods' hunter needs to develop skill necessary for quick taking of steady shooting positions, and ability to snap-shoot accurately at targets that, at best, are exposed to aim for only five seconds.

A trial sighting-in clinic and introduction of a competitive course of practical field firing with hunting type rifles could very well put new life into a slowly dying formal target shooting club.

From personal experience, I know there eventually comes a day when even the most enthusiastic formal target shooter seeks variety—and more fun—in lieu of the pressure of the hardest form of competition and the almost absolute perfection demanded of top-ranking tournament performers.

Game figure targets, between seasons varmint shooting and legal season hunting, on the other hand, can keep a rifleman in fine form for practical, all-around shooting without the pressures of tournament competition.

If you plan to hunt one of the far north states or Canadian provinces this season, take care to thoroughly degrease the working parts of your rifle,

especially removing all traces of oil from small springs and the firing pin's housing. Otherwise, in subfreezing weather your rifle's action is apt to fail you.

For lubrication, use fine graphite, or silicone solution unaffected by temperature extremes.

In hunting country that lies around the snow-line, or above, surface rust can appear almost magically. For that matter, it can appear quickly—and even more viciously—in Florida's humid climate, too.

At Palm Beach, Florida, shooter Tom Rice, 437 Chilean Avenue, is marketing a gun cleaning kit of his own development that solves field and home gun cleaning problems. His gun cleaning kit consists of three items—his XF-Gun Solvent, for removing lead and fouling from gun bores, an XF-15 Dry Graphite preparation for greaseless lubrication of mechanisms, and an XF-20 Gun Lubricant that goes on metal surfaces as a liquid and creates a microscopically thin protective film of amazing durability.

The products, however, are not for haphazard application; for best results, the manufacturer's instructions must be followed to the letter.

I am very interested in the performance qualities of gun oils and greases, and constantly test and evaluate advertised preparations. I have been doing this since 1929, and on the Florida scene since 1945, both as a hobby and as research technician for National Sportsmen's Research Institute. Products are given rather rugged tests.

In the old days, Hoppe's No. 9 pretty well dominated the category of solvents used for bore cleaning, and products like Rig, Houghton's Rust-Veto, Jaymac Gun Grease, Gunslick Gun Grease, Hart's 77 Anti-Rust Oil, Ruste-Pruf, Sheath and Winchester Gun Oil were the stand-bys for preservation of exteriors. Anhydrous lanolin mixed 50-50 with either high grade (moisture free) white Vaseline

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DOGS Hunting - Trials - Training

By JIM FLOYD

Club Directory

Special training and selective breeding are major factors in producing field trial champs

TWO PRETTY GIRLS from Kansas, a guitar playing ballad singer, a group of coon hunters, a pack of tree hounds, and a pet raccoon, pulled the fact from the fire and saved the day for the Halifax Hunting and Fishing Club.

To properly tell the story of the 1963, 14th annual Wildlife Night it is necessary to go back a bit and bring the night of August 17 into focus.

In Daytona Beach there is an open air theater, complete with band shell and seating arrangements for an estimated five thousand people. Once each year the Halifax Hunting and Fishing Club breaks a routine of musical concerts by sponsoring a special program with emphasis on conservation and wildlife. Throughout the years Wildlife Night has become not only popular but eagerly anticipated by the residents and tourists of Daytona Beach.

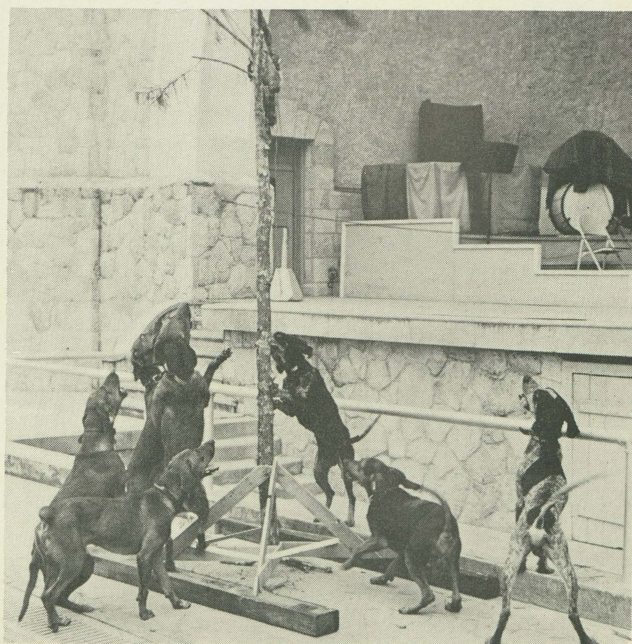
In the past, Wildlife Night has seen everything from snakes, alligators, hawks, duck calling, movies, bears and retrieving dogs. Each year the show is a bit bigger and better than the preceeding year. Quite a few years ago the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission got into the act by helping the sponsoring club obtain suitable conservation programs. With the Commission participation Jim Reed the congenial Information Officer from the Commissions Central Florida region manages to loose an annual handfull of hair in his efforts to come up with something new.

The 1963 Wildlife Night climaxed a long series of successful wildlife shows at the bandshell and surely a credit to the Commission, the sponsoring

Halifax Hunting and Fishing Club, and all who participated in what was titled the worlds first In-board Coon Dog Field Trial.

The trial as conducted at the bandshell consisted of a drag trail layed up one aisle and down the center aisle through an audience of several thousand people to a tree located near the center of the stage. Herman the pet coon was allowed to select his choice of branches on the well braced tree and there await the action of the hounds. The hounds were cast from one side of the audience and required to follow the trail on concrete.

All in all it wasn't a long trail, at the most perhaps three hundred yards, but concrete isn't the most conducive element for a coon hunt and when mingled with the aroma of several thousand people it provides a real test of merit for the most



There was music "in the hills" as a pack of determined coon hounds tree raccoon during world's first Inboard Field Trial at Daytona Beach.

determined hound. I will have to take the proverbial coon skin cap off to the hounds of Jacksonville as they demonstrated real coon dog sagacity by following the trail and thereby providing the audience with the sight and sound of a real honest to goodness coon hunt.

In the audience was one elderly gentleman who arrived with his granddaughter an hour ahead of show time. Seems the fellow was an old time coon hunter from the state of Tennessee and wanted to make sure his little granddaughter had an opportunity to hear the mountain music. Seated in the front row was a delegation from the humane society to make sure Herman the pet coon came to no harm.

The back rows witnessed an audience standing on the back of the benches in order to view the treeing and baying of the hounds. The pretty girls from Kansas introduced the hounds to the audience and probably converted some of the young fellows on the beach patrol to the sport of coon hunting. Gene Smith the singing Game Commission Information-Education officer from north west Florida strummed the guitar and sang "Bay at the Moon" with considerable improvisation of lyrics to fit the occasion. Dr. Fred Peacock, a Jacksonville veterinary, went back to Jacksonville with a winning hound, a two year old Redbone named Leroy. All in all it was a grand time, a splendid wildlife show, and many folks went coon hunting without getting their feet wet.

The success of the 1963 Daytona Beach Wildlife Night has already opened speculations for the 1964 occasion. Some would have the next event a full fledged "Inboard Coon Dog Field Trial" with proper sanction and awards.

Selective Breeding

One objective of a dog club is to improve the standard of a sporting breed. This can be accomplished by the selective breeding of the better dogs. In other words a field trial champion dog bred to a field trial champion should produce a litter of prospective field trial champions.

Evidence of the success of such practice can be noted at each field trial of the North Florida Amateur Retriever Club, and other field trail activity around Florida. For instance "Meto Of Devil's Garden," a son of Amateur Field Trial Champion and Florida Champion "Mallard Of Devils Garden," is a consistent placing dog in both the derby and the qualifying stakes. I think however the most marked evidence of this breeding theory was displayed during the last club trial of the North Florida Amateur Retriever Club.

With nineteen retrievers entered in the Derby Stake the judges selected seven dogs at the conclusion of four series of competition. Of the seven dogs remaining in the winners circle five were



Leading a dog's life can have pleasant moments; though the hound's attention may be directed toward the raccoon, the owner can be distracted by sideline attractions.

from one litter. This litter the results of a breeding by Florida Champion "Dee Dot's Greatford Duke" owned by Parker Capps of Jacksonville and out of Florida Amateur Champion "Bigstone Rebel Babe" owned by Dick Cheves of Fort Myers.

While these winning youngsters were the results of selective breeding, they would never have reached the circle had it not been for the efforts of the owners and many hours of training. However in order to have a winner it is necessary to have something to start with, and I feel that those who watch retriever field trials may do well to keep an eye on this breeding.

Labor Day Field Trials

The Panhandle Sportsmens Club conducted its second annual Labor Day Coon Hound Field Trial and Water Race at Panama City. The days trophy events was literally carried away by a grade class black and tan hound from Crestview, Florida. Of the four trophy events "Slim" owned by Rudy Jones of Crestview received top honors in three. First at line in the land trial, first at line in the water race, and first at tree in the water event. The determined "Slim" was cast by his owner in

(Continued on page 28)

FISHING

Noise and Fish

Surface fishing the plastic
worm with spinning tackle

By CHARLES WATERMAN

FISH HEAR THROUGH what is usually termed the “lateral lines”—lines which show plainly or hardly at all depending on what kind of fish you’re examining.

Since the lines run almost from bow to stern and there is one on each side, this listening apparatus is evidently pretty important.

The study of all the sensory equipment of fishes is one of the hottest things in fish biology right now and it is known that various kinds of fish whine, grunt, click, squeal, whistle and snarl at each other or the world in general. Some of these noises are clearly audible to an angler, even when the fish is under water. What they mean he can only guess at but it shakes him to know that there are thousands of underwater signals he can’t hear and wouldn’t understand if he could.

He’d probably be even more bugged if he could hear them and *DID* know what they meant.

So we know that a bass can hear a lot of little noises under water and we wonder what scares him and what attracts him. Probably the answer is that what scares him on Tuesday may attract him on Wednesday so we’re not doing so well.

If the world of science will just be patient, I’ll straighten out some of this stuff.

As to what scares him, I’ve never been convinced that talk or even yelling from above the water’s surface has much effect. I figure his receiver isn’t tuned too sharply to that kind of racket anyway and what comes through to him is undoubtedly pretty faint and unlikely to be frightening.

Anyway, sound waves in air are different from those under water. When you dive you can’t hear too distinctly what’s going on above the surface and there may be even less transmission for fish. All I can say on that subject is that I have never seen a fish show signs of fear because of outside-the-water conversation.



Now a very loud noise that causes heavy vibration is something else again. A sudden clap of thunder will startle fish. Undoubtedly a shot fired near the water’s surface would do the same.

You can bang a skiff in such a way that it causes a lot of underwater noise (just stick your head under and listen) and I have seen fish startled by such a bang. Fish accustomed to being fed from boats, docks or shore will come to the feeding area when the proper noises are made.

Shy fish are often scattered by the vibrations and movements of boggy ground. The vibrations, of course, are transmitted through the water but I don’t know if they are received the same as sounds or not.

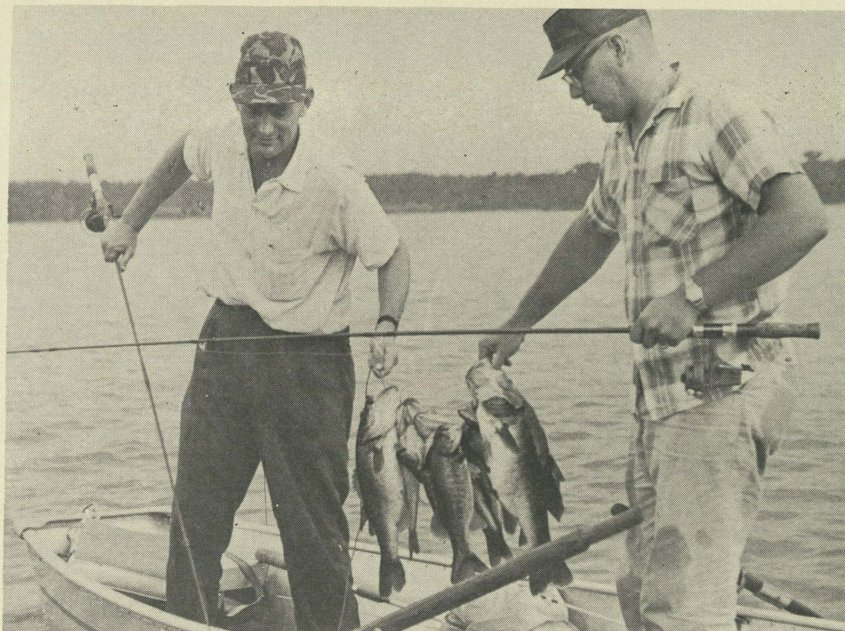
Without scientific experimental evidence, I’d say that the fisherman should be most careful of thumping, banging or grating sounds. I think noisy oarlocks are chief offenders, I believe rubber-soled shoes or some kind of carpeting are a help in skiffs and I believe in operating anchors with care. If the splash of a thrown anchor doesn’t scare a fish, the grating of the rope or chain as the anchor sinks can. A lot of noise can be made with almost any kind of tackle box. Padded plug compartments are considered very important by some good fishermen.

I am sure of one thing: Silence does not scare fish.

Right along with this noise business: I was given some nylon rowlocks to test the other day, the theory being that they would prove much quieter than metal.

They were quieter and they were apparently quite strong enough for any kind of rowing. They did not show wear after a couple of weeks of hard use. Unfortunately, I bumped one of them against a bridge piling and it snapped in two. I doubt if this is a serious fault. It was a hard blow and probably wouldn’t happen again in years.

Howard Gold and Albert Guenther display a nice string of largemouth bass caught on plastic worms. With light tackle the plastic worm works well on the surface.



More About Plastic Worms

I have no idea where the plastic worm is going to stop—probably never.

The latest exhibition of worm angling I've viewed was a deadly bit of surface fishing demonstrated by a fisherman named Albert Guenther and a couple of his friends.

Using plain, ordinary plastic worms with single hooks and spinning rods, they caught big strings of bass on a lake I had considered a poor fishing spot.

The rig was simple. Using 8-pound-test monofilament line they attached a somewhat heavier leader about a foot long with a small swivel in between. The weight of the worm and hook came to something like 1/5 ounce and it was light enough that if you laid it gently on the surface it would float for an instant.

They cast the worm over underwater vegetation and reeled it rapidly with irregular rod whipping. The worm made a wake on top like a hurrying snake. Sometimes it actually skipped in a wind ruffle. It worked on both calm and windy days.

The "strikes" consisted of big swirls—sometimes attended by a splash. When that happened the fisherman gave slack immediately, allowing the fish time to get the entire worm into his mouth. It usually was a wait of several seconds. Then he'd set the hook hard and there was a very high percentage of successful hookings. For short periods it was very nearly the most productive bass fishing I've ever seen. The water was several feet deep.

These fellows preferred black worms but said they hadn't given other colors much of a trial.

Maybe it works only on certain kinds of lakes but—well, they caught a lot of bass.

While we're on the worm subject (I can't seem to avoid it), it occurred to me that the soft plastic

lures—worms, eels, etc., are the only artificial baits I know of that are actually taken by bass and accepted as food, even after the fish has been given a chance to run a test and make notes.

Unless he's scared by a too-eager fisherman or by a too-bulky hooking, weighting or weedless arrangement, the fish will proceed to swallow a plastic worm, evidently convinced that it's just the brand of vitamins he's needed.

Suppose someone invented a synthetic worm that was really good for fish, digestible and nourishing; would that be an artificial lure?

DuPont's Stren is now offered in a kit for tying tapered fly leaders. Careful fly fishermen have long used sections of different sizes of monofilament in building easy-casting leaders. Since they may need several different sizes of mono for their tapers it's always been a nuisance trying to keep all of the materials on hand.

In my case, I usually end up with four spools of, say, 15-pound stuff and no 12-pound mono at all. The spools are generally scattered through my gear although I try to keep them attached to each other.

This DuPont kit, which will cost about \$4.95, contains eight different tests of material and two polyethylene envelopes for storing completed leaders. All of this goes in one clear cylindrical plastic bottle only four and a half inches long. This dingus I recommend. The guy who thought it up should get a nylon medal.

I am watching with interest a rod put out by the Fenwick people in California. It's sectioned but it has no ferrule. The fiberglass sections simply fit into each other. It's a high grade glass rod and I'm cur-

(Continued on page 32)



Photo By Leonard Lee Rue III

In the unpredictable moments of Florida deer hunting, it is even possible to get—and miss!—a shot at 30 feet.

Hunting facts about Florida's big game trio

THE BIG

By EDMUND McLAURIN

FOR THE SPORTSMAN who seeks big game, and who likes his hunting exciting and often rugged, there is open season in Florida on game species that offer a challenge of matched wits or bold defiance.

The big three are deer, bear and wild hogs. Whether you bag them with gun or bow, their quest offers exciting sport.

Until the Game Commission considers his taking desirable, the once hunted Florida panther (or puma) is taboo as a hunting trophy. Animals are now protected statewide and year-around. Rarely seen, only a small native population remains.

Despite expanding civilization and heavy hunting pressure, the Florida whitetail deer is generally on the increase. Good hunting abounds in many sections of the state.

This hunting season, which opens statewide November 16—except in the section of the state south of Highway #60, an area observing special dates—

is characteristically promising. Game biologists report healthy and numerous deer herds at widely scattered points.

There'll be many a fine buck bagged in some virtually unknown spots, as well as in such popular deer hunting locations as Florida's national forests, Eglin Field, Homosassa and Withlacoochee river country, the Everglades and the scrub oak country that characterizes the Citrus-Hernando section.

It is not so much a matter of pin-pointing the area of heaviest deer populations as being at the right place at the right time. Deer hunting has a pronounced element of luck associated with participation, but success is often influenced by the deer hunter's preparedness, his hunting knowledge and experience.

Hunting techniques vary.

Many Florida hunters like to organize short period deer hunts, place members at strategic points

and make a "run" with the hope that a deer jumped and scent-trailed by dogs will take an escape course that will bring it within effective killing range of one of the waiting hunters.

Also numerous are the unorganized, independent hunters who park their cars on back roads and wait for deer to cross of own accord or because of being disturbed by the activity of rival hunters.

Others prefer to still-hunt deep in the Florida scrub, either sitting with back to a tree that overlooks a game trail or occupying a tree-stand built above ground and affording a somewhat more encompassing view. (The secret of your success will be directly related to how still you can be; as someone once said, there's a big difference between sitting on a stand and sitting *still*! Hand movements must be kept to a minimum and the hunter must firmly resist the temptation to move to another spot.)

Relatively few hunters choose to pussy-foot through the woods, hoping to either jump a bedded buck or spot a deer before being seen—while silently praying they themselves won't be mistaken for deer and shot at by some trigger-happy hunter.

If a slow-walk through the woods is your preferred technique, try it during the midday hours when game is most likely to be taking a siesta. Move very slowly and stop often to test wind direction and study brush and vegetation ahead

and around you. In order to be successful at this type of hunting, you must invariably see the game before it sees you.

Whatever your chosen method of hunting, by all means utilize the visual assistance a good pair of binoculars provide. The glasses will not only save you a lot of unnecessary and noisy walking, but will enable you to probe shadowed spots where motionless animals in hiding normally might not be detected.

Among deer hunters, there is long standing controversy as to whether or not deer can see color. Scientists say that deer are color blind, and a hunter can be dressed in bright red from head to toe and it won't make much difference unless the hunter moves.

However, the same scientists admit that deer undoubtedly can detect marked differences in tone in their visual world of gray and black and white. For this reason, many hunters take care to wear camouflage pattern clothing that blends with nature's colors, or to stand against background of harmonizing vegetation.

The American Indian used a blind advantageously in his hunting of deer, and you can, too. Your blind, however, must be larger and better camouflaged—simply because it's a sure bet you won't be as still inside your blind as the Indian. You'll need

(Continued on next page)

In hunting the big game trio—deer, wild hog and bear—it is a good idea to get on selected stands early, stay late as legal.



THREE

DEER, BEAR and WILD HOGS



Photo By Edmund McLaurin

Florida big game is abundant, but elusive. With exceptions, hunter success doesn't come easy. Hunters, left, must know and study the game and its habitat carefully. Tracks in mud and sandy soil help reveal promising hunting areas. Fresh track, below, near spring, shows bear visited here not too many hours before.

(Continued from preceding page)

a blind large enough to permit you to move about a little inside without being visible or creating giveaway noise. For a blind constructed at ground level, one 6 feet or larger on the inside and not more than 3 feet high is about the smallest that can be utilized comfortably and effectively by the average hunter. In a small blind, you will inadvertently bump, rustle or rattle something just about every time you move.

It is important that the blind be located where game regularly travels. If possible, walk leisurely over the area you plan to hunt, note good spots and select one or more at least two weeks before your planned hunt. Set up your blind in advance, if you can, so that game will tend to accept the man-made structure as a natural, harmless part of the landscape.

Always consider prevailing wind direction when planning a blind. The best blind is of no value if your scent is air-borne to game in the vicinity. If necessary, do not hesitate to use a few drops of animal or trapper's scent on clothing and surrounding foliage, to better conceal drafts of human scent from the highly inquisitive, sensitive nostrils of deer and other cautious animals.

What weapon? That's up to you. But it should be powerful enough to do its intended job—quickly and relatively humanely.

Because most Florida deer are killed at close range and in thick brush, many hunters prefer a shotgun to a rifle, and in the Eglin Field section only shotguns are permitted. Shotguns should be no smaller than 16 gauge, for reasonably sure kills.

In doubles, use buckshot; most side-by-side doubles do not pattern slugs well, and may even be



Photo By Bill Hansen

moody about the size of buckshot fired through their bores. Invariably, size No. 1. will pattern better than 0 or 00—for technical reasons too lengthy to explain here.

Effective rifle calibers include .35 Remington, .30-30 and .32 Win. Special, 300 Savage, .30-06, .308, .358, .270 Winchester, .280 Remington and similar calibers that pack punch. In Florida's thick brush hunting, bullet weight is a very important factor in stability and performance. A heavy, round nosed bullet driven at intermediate velocity tends to plow through brush and stay on course better than one of light, Spitzer (pointed) type.

The black bear is native to Florida, grows to large size and is legal game of season.

Each year, bear—some of them really big bruins—are taken by hunters at widely scattered points. The New Smyrna Beach section of Volusia county, the scrub country of Hernando county, the boggy

The Florida Black Bear, right, is notably smart; few hunters, in search of other game, ever see one. Black bear may be taken during legal open season, according to regulations, and during special managed bear hunts scheduled by the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission. Cub bears, below, are protected at all times.



Photo By Leonard Lee Rue III



Photo By Jim Reed

Everglades, Ocala National Forest, Osceola National Forest, Apalachicola National Forest and the jungles around Bonita Springs are popular bear hunting areas.

Animals have been recently glimpsed by occupants of cars traveling of late afternoon on the roads bordering the edges of Winthrop Swamp, nine miles east of Tallahassee on the Jacksonville highway.

Generally, bear hunting is done with dogs, with hunters following in Jeeps or afoot. Without the help of dogs, successful trailing of a native Florida bear is practically impossible for the average hunter.

The Plott family, of Hazelwood, North Carolina, breeders of the famous Plott strain of bear hounds, sometimes bring their packs to Florida during open season.

The Florida black bear is notably smart; few

hunters, out in quest of other game, ever see one. Once man or dog scent reaches bruin's nostrils, he is apt to put added distance between himself and danger—and fast. Only the more determined hunters ever get close to a bear in the wild.

Another reason—besides the quarry's sagacity in avoiding the hunters after him—is that most Florida bear are found in thick growth river swamps, dense scrub oak areas and large palmetto-studded hammocks that slow down men and dogs and give bruin time to disappear along an escape route as familiar to him as a briar-patch to a rabbit. Consequently, an average of only about fifty legally killed animals are taken each year.

In his remote, hard-to-reach native habitat, the Florida black bear seems to be holding his own. More could be taken without depleting basic breeding stock if more hunters showed the intestinal fortitude necessary to find and bring him to bay.

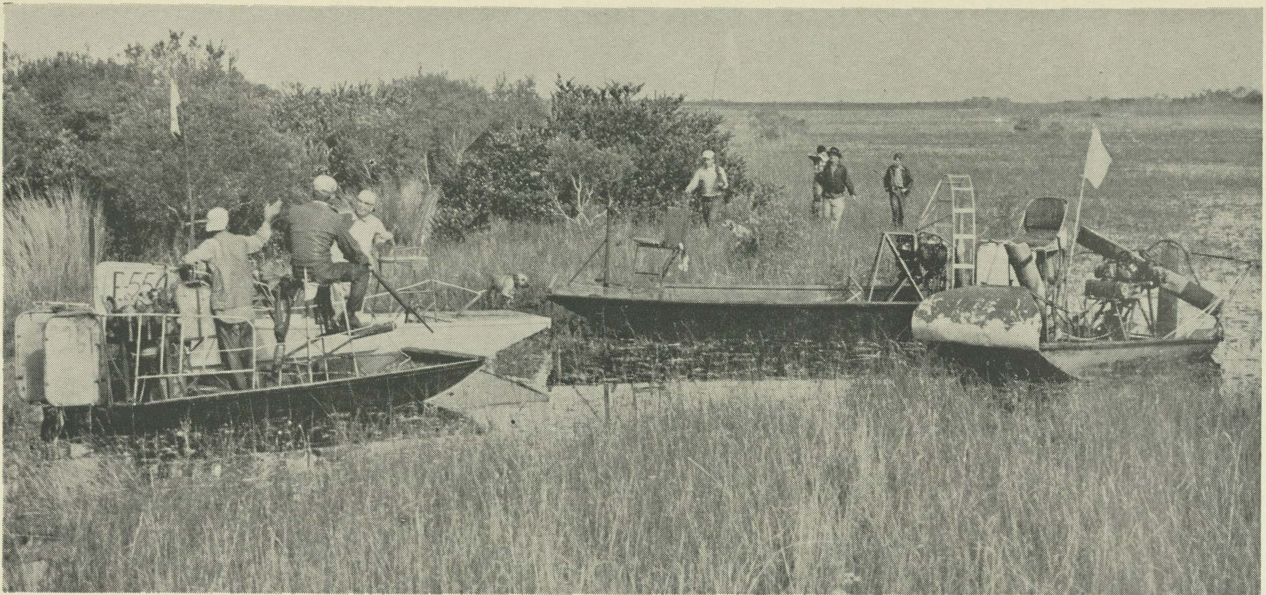
Adult bear may be taken only during the open season that embraces deer hunting, and during special managed bear hunts scheduled by the Game Commission. Cubs are protected at all times.

Hunting hours are from one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour past sunset. Bag limit is 1 per season, unless special hunt regulations apply.

To make bear hunting both attractive and easier for the individual licensed hunter, the Game Commission annually authorizes special organized bear hunts, usually in the Osceola National Forest in Columbia and Baker counties, and in the Apalachicola National Forest in Liberty county, two areas known for good hunting.

The procedure is to provide for several three-day hunt periods, each under a hunt supervisor and lim-

(Continued on next page)



Big game hunting among the countless islands of the Everglades invariably demands airboats for transportation.

Florida State News Bureau

(Continued from preceding page)

ited to a maximum of 17 persons. Each group must obtain a \$50 party hunt permit, and each person participating must also possess a regular hunting license. As a rule, some really enthusiastic hunter applies for a hunt permit in his name, then proceeds to sign up friends to defray the \$50 permit cost.

Only a high power rifle firing a heavy, soft-nosed bullet, or a 12 gauge shotgun loaded with rifled slugs or buckshot, should be used, whether you hunt alone or as a member of a group.

To the delight of nimrods, the Florida wild hog has been declared a game animal by the Florida Game Commission, for hunting this season on 1,364,-200 acres comprising twelve of the state's 27 wildlife management areas. In addition, the entire county of

Palm Beach will be open for hunting. (Outside of the designated management areas and cooperating counties, the Commission claims no jurisdiction.)

This season, hunters are permitted a daily bag limit of one hog of either sex, and a season's bag of two, except when local game management area regulations specifically provide for an increased or decreased bag limit.

Archers will be allowed five special post season wild hog hunts on the Guano River Wildlife Management Area, in addition to kill privileges during their regularly observed archery season.

Many hunters openly declare they would rather bag a wild hog than a deer; they know the Epicurean delight of eating barbequed wild hog.

(Continued on page 31)

Mean-tempered wild hogs at bay can mean fast, exciting action; are considered legal game only in certain areas.

Photo By Wallace Hughes



LICENSES

(Issued from office of County Judge)

Exempt—Residents 65 years of age and over; all children under 15.

Costs include County Judges' fees.

Service men, stationed in Florida, are considered residents of Florida insofar as licenses to hunt and fish are concerned.

GAME

Series H — For hunting on licensed private hunting preserves only	\$ 5.50
Seres I — Resident County, Game	2.00
Series J — Resident, other than Home County	4.50
Series K — Resident, State	7.50
Series L — Non-Resident, State	26.50
Series M — Non-Resident, 10-day Continuous	11.50
Series M-1 — Non-Resident County, Owners of and paying taxes on 3,000 acres of land	11.50
Series Y — Guide, required for guiding hunting parties.	

Issued from office of Commission, Tallahassee

Alien Hunting — Issued from Office of Commission, Tallahassee

TRAPPING

Series N — Resident, County	\$ 3.25
Series O — Non-Resident, County	25.50
Series P — Resident, State	25.50
Series Q — Resident, other than Home County	10.50
Series R — Non-Resident, State	100.50

FUR BEARERS

LICENSES—Valid trapping licenses required to take for commercial purposes any fur-bearing animals by any method. Valid hunting license required to hunt, for non-commercial purposes, any fur-bearing animals. No license or permit required to take or remove, for non-commercial purposes, any unprotected fur-bearing animals which are proven to be damaging personal property.

SEASONS—Protected fur-bearers may be taken only during open season from December 1 to March 1. The use of steel traps is prohibited in Florida during designated deer hunting seasons. No open season on Everglades mink or Florida weasel. Unprotected fur-bearing animals, and other unprotected mammals other than those defined as game animals, may be taken throughout the year.

PROTECTED FUR-BEARERS—Beaver, Mink and Otter, may be taken only during open season.

FULLY PROTECTED FUR-BEARERS—Everglades mink and Florida weasel may not be taken at any time.

FUR-BEARERS WITHOUT CLOSED SEASON—Raccoon, Bobcats, Opossum, Red and Gray Fox, Skunk and Civet Cat.

NON-TRAPPING—Persons possessing valid hunting licenses, and those exempted from license by reason of age, may take, (non-commercially and without the use of traps or other devices) fur-bearing animals in season by use of guns or dogs.

TRAPPING—Persons possessing valid trapping licenses, and those exempted from license by reason of age, may take fur-bearing animals commercially by use of steel traps or other traps, snares, or by guns or dogs. Use of set-guns is prohibited. Trapping is prohibited in ALL Wildlife Management Areas unless authorized by Area Regulations. **POSSESSION, SALE OR PURCHASE** of untanned pelts of any protected fur-bearing animal is limited to open season and 30 days immediately following.

LICENSE REQUIRED to take commercially, deal in or buy hides or furs.

TRANSPORTATION—Packages containing hides, furs or skins for shipment must bear name and license number of shipper.

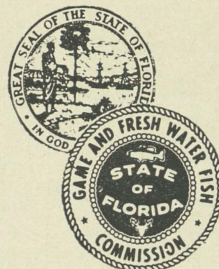
DEALERS AND BUYERS of furs and hides must possess proper commercial licenses and must report each two weeks during season when furs or hides may be bought or sold, giving names of trappers, license numbers and numbers and kinds of hides bought. Reports made to Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, Tallahassee, Florida.

FLORIDA

HUNTING and TRAPPING

RULES and REGULATIONS

1963-64 SUMMARY

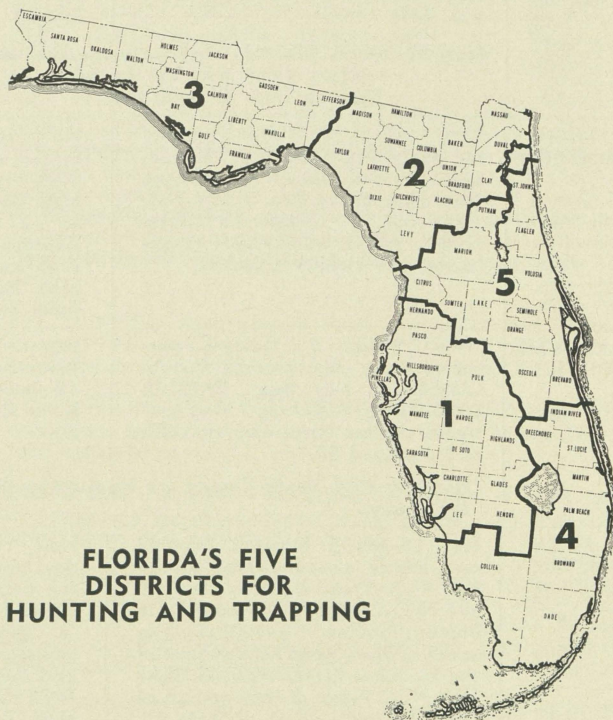


Applying to:

Resident Game

Migratory Birds

Fur Bearing Animals
and Reptiles



FLORIDA'S FIVE
DISTRICTS FOR
HUNTING AND TRAPPING

FLORIDA

GAME AND FRESH WATER FISH COMMISSION

TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

NOTE: The center four pages of this issue—Pages 17, 18, 19 and 20—can be removed, for your copy of the 1963-64 Summary of Hunting Season Regulations. Fold back on center black line, and trim.



REGULATIONS FOR 1963-64 HUNTING SEASON

ALL DATES SHOWN ARE INCLUSIVE

SEE MANAGEMENT AREA SUMMARIES FOR MANAGEMENT AREA REGULATIONS

OPEN SEASON FOR TAKING FLORIDA RESIDENT GAME BIRDS AND ANIMALS



BAG LIMITS	DEER BUCK ONLY	TURKEY EITHER SEX	QUAIL	SQUIRREL
Day's Bag	1	2	10	10 Gray - 2 Fox
Total Possession	2	3	20	20 Gray - 4 Fox
Season's Bag	2	3	No Limit	
FIRST DISTRICT	Nov. 16-Jan. 5. Hunting permitted every day. NO OPEN SEASON Hardee, Manatee, Sarasota, Pinellas, DeSoto and Hillsborough Counties south of U.S. 92. SPECIAL SEASON Nov. 9-Jan. 5 south of State Rd. 60.	Nov. 16-Jan. 5. Hunting permitted every day. EXCEPT DeSoto and Hardee Counties open Nov. 16 to Dec. 1 and Dec. 21 to Jan. 1 only. NO OPEN SEASON Pinellas County SPECIAL SEASON Nov. 9-Jan. 5 south of State Rd. 60.	Nov. 16-Feb. 23. Hunting permitted every day. SPECIAL SEASON Nov. 9-Feb. 23 south of State Rd. 60.	
SECOND DISTRICT	Nov. 16-Jan. 5. Hunting permitted every day except in Dixie, Gilchrist and Levy (see footnote). SPECIAL SEASON Nov. 16-Nov. 24 only, Alachua, Gilchrist Counties and that portion of Levy County between St. Roads 337 and 339. NO OPEN SEASON: Bradford, and that portion of Columbia south of State Rd. 18 and east of U.S. 441.	Nov. 16-Jan. 5. Hunting permitted every day except in Dixie, Gilchrist and Levy Counties (see footnote). SPECIAL SEASON March 28 to April 12, gobblers only 1/2 hour before sunrise to 12 noon except in Levy County. NO OPEN SEASON Alachua, Bradford, Madison and that portion of Columbia County south of State Rd. 18 and east of U.S. 441.	Nov. 16-Feb. 23. Hunting permitted every day except in Dixie, Levy, and Gilchrist Counties (see footnote).	
Footnote: Dixie, Gilchrist, Levy including that portion of Steinhatchee Management Area within Lafayette County, resident game may not be taken on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Fridays except during the first 9 days and between Dec. 25 and Jan. 1.				
THIRD DISTRICT	Nov. 16-Jan. 12. Hunting permitted every day. Okaloosa, Walton, Escambia and Santa Rosa Counties open Nov. 16 to Dec. 1 and Dec. 14 to Jan. 1. (SAME AS EGLIN FIELD). NO OPEN SEASON Washington and Holmes Counties.	Nov. 16-Jan. 12. Hunting permitted every day. SPECIAL SEASON March 28 to April 12, gobblers only 1/2 hour before sunrise to 12 noon in Leon, Jefferson, Gadsden, Holmes, Bay, and all counties west of the Choctawhatchee River. (No turkey hunting Eglin Field Nov. 16-Jan. 12).	Nov. 16-Feb. 23. Hunting permitted every day.	
FOURTH DISTRICT	*Nov. 9-Jan. 5. Hunting permitted every day. Monroe County CLOSED to Key Deer. SPECIAL SEASON Nov. 16-Jan. 5 that portion of Indian River County north of State Road 60. *HOGS in Palm Beach County are legal game, OPEN SEASON Nov. 9-Jan. 5. Bag Limit One (1) per day, Two (2) per season.	Nov. 9-Jan. 5. Hunting permitted every day. SPECIAL SEASON Nov. 16-Jan. 5 that portion of Indian River County north of State Road 60.	Nov. 9-Feb. 23. Hunting permitted every day. SPECIAL SEASON Nov. 16-Feb. 23 that portion of Indian River County north of State Rd. 60.	
FIFTH DISTRICT	Nov. 16-Jan. 5. Monday, Tuesday and Friday closed except during first 9 days and between Dec. 25 and Jan. 1.* Every day hunting in Sumter, Putnam** and all counties south of State Road 50 and west of the St. Johns River. SPECIAL SEASON Nov. 9-Jan. 5 that portion of Osceola County south of State Rd. 60.	Nov. 16-Jan. 5. Monday, Tuesday, and Friday closed except during first 9 days and between Dec. 25 and Jan. 1.* Every day hunting in Sumter, Putnam** and all counties south of State Road 50 and west of the St. Johns River. SPECIAL SEASON Nov. 9-Jan. 5 that portion of Osceola County south of State Road 60. SPRING GOBBLER SEASON Putnam County only, March 28 to April 12, 1/2 hour before sunrise to noon.	Nov. 16-Feb. 23. Monday, Tuesday and Friday closed except during first 9 days and between Dec. 25 and Jan. 1.* Every day hunting Sumter, Putnam** and all counties south of State Road 50 and west of St. Johns River. SPECIAL SEASON Nov. 9-Feb. 23 that portion of Osceola County south of State Rd. 60.	
* In Ocala National Forest, Monday, Tuesday and Fridays closed during period Dec. 25 to Jan. 1. ** Except that portion of the Ocala National Forest lying within Putnam County.				

ALWAYS RESPECT THE RIGHTS OF LANDOWNERS. ASK PERMISSION BEFORE YOU HUNT
SAFE HUNTING IS COURTEOUS HUNTING

OPEN SEASON FOR TAKING MIGRATORY BIRDS — FLORIDA

BAG LIMITS	MARSH HEN RAILS and GALLINULES	DOVE	SNIPE	WOODCOCK	WATERFOWL	
					Ducks Coot	Geese
Day's Bag	15 and 25 Sora	10	8	5	4 Ducks* 8 Coot*	2
Total Possession	30 and 25 Sora	20	8	10	8 Ducks** 16 Coot	4
Season's Bag	No Limit	No Limit	No Limit	No Limit	No Limit	No Limit
All Districts	Sept. 7 Through Nov. 15	Oct. 5 Through Nov. 3 EXCEPT: First District; Hardee, De-Soto, Hendry and Glades Counties CLOSED! In the Third District; that portion of Franklin County known as Alligator Point CLOSED! Nov. 16 Through Dec. 2 Statewide Dec. 21 Through Jan. 12 Statewide	Nov. 16 Through Dec. 30	Nov. 16 Through Jan. 4	12-Noon* Nov. 27 Through Jan. 5	

*Waterfowl hunting for ducks, geese and coot permitted every day EXCEPT Leon County, Third District, which is OPEN ONLY on Wednesdays, Saturdays, Sundays, opening day, and holidays.

**Daily Bag may not include more than two mallards, black ducks, or Florida ducks, singly or in the aggregate; or two wood ducks, or one hooded merganser. Possession limits may not include more than four black ducks, mallards or Florida ducks, singly or in aggregate; two wood ducks, and two hooded mergansers. Daily bag limit on American and redbreasted merganser is five; possession limit of 10. No hunting of canvasback or redhead ducks.

**In the following described areas two scaup ducks may be taken in addition to the daily bag, with possession of four additional to duck limit: All open waters of Charlotte Harbor area from bridge on U.S. Hiway 41 to straight line running from Boca Grande Pass East through Bokeelia to the mainland; all open areas of the 2,200 acre impoundment open to controlled hunting on Guano River Wildlife Management Area, St. Johns County, Fla. All open waters of Banana River from Banana Creek south to State Road 520; and all open waters of Tampa Bay. All open waters of the Indian River from Shiloh south to the bridge on State Road 516 at Melbourne. All open waters of Mosquito Lagoon (Indian River Lagoon) from Oak Hill to State Road 402.

ALL REGULATIONS SUBJECT TO CHANGE IN CASE OF EMERGENCIES

HOLIDAYS AND OPENING AND CLOSING DAYS—During any season or in any locality where specified individual days of the week are closed to hunting for any species, such days shall be open on Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day and New Year's Day. The Opening Day and the Closing Day for any species is always open for that species. Whenever Christmas Day or New Year's Day falls on a Sunday, the Monday immediately following such Sunday shall be open.

RABBIT HUNTING—Both cottontail and swamp rabbit have been declared game animals, with hunting permitted 12 months in the year. No bag or season limits. License required to take rabbit during the regular open seasons for resident and migratory game animals and birds.

BEAR HUNTING—The bear is a game animal and may be taken only during the open season for taking of deer, and during managed bear hunts. No open season in Ocala National Forest.

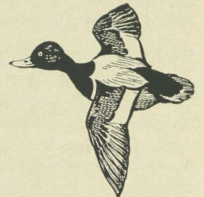
WILD HOGS—Declared as game animals in specified Wildlife Management Areas, and in Palm Beach County. Wild hogs may be taken during the open season designated for each Area. **BAG LIMITS:** ONE (1) Per Day; TWO (2) Per Season; Except FOUR (4) Per Season on Camp Blanding Management Area. No wild hog hunting permitted on Eglin Field.

SEX EVIDENCE—Evidence of the sex, along with the heads, must remain on the carcasses of ALL DEER—and TURKEY during the Spring Gobbler Season—while in camp or forest. DOES, or BUCKS, with less than 5-inch antlers, taken during special "ANY DEER" Hunts, must be tagged by Hunt Official.

NEW RULES—Major changes in effect for the 1963-64 hunting season, as compared to the 1962-63 season are: Bag limits and seasons on some migratory game birds have been changed. The use of steel traps are prohibited in Florida from December 1, 1963 until after the closing of the deer season, by region. Other changes are outlined in these regulations. **READ YOUR SUMMARY CAREFULLY!**

SHOOTING HOURS—For resident game:

One-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset. **MIGRATORY GAME:** Dove, from 12-noon until sunset. Ducks, geese and coot, 12-noon until sunset opening day; sunrise until sunset all other days. Other migratory birds, sunrise until sunset.



LEGAL METHODS OF TAKING GAME—Shotguns not larger than 10-gauge; Rifles; Repeating Rifles; Long Bows; Pistols; Falcons. Shotguns must be plugged to three-shell capacity. Rifles and pistols prohibited when taking migratory game. Use of full-jacketed bullets or .22-calibre rimfire cartridges prohibited when taking deer or bear. Bows used for taking deer or bear must be capable of casting a one ounce hunting arrow 150 yards.

ALL HUNTERS must possess valid Florida hunting licenses, except when exempted by age. **DUCK STAMPS** also required of all persons over 16 when taking geese or ducks.

PURCHASE OF HUNTING LICENSE OR PERMIT constitutes acceptance by the purchaser of all provisions of or attached to such license or permit.

SIGN YOUR LICENSE—No license or permit is valid until countersigned by the licensee or permittee. Also sign your name across face of your duck stamp.

MIGRATORY SEASONS—Seasons for migratory game are set by the state within a framework established by the Federal agency which controls game birds traveling interstate. Seasons are set, so far as possible, to allow maximum hunting without damage to basic game populations.

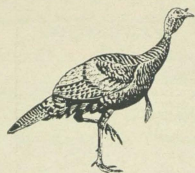
LEON COUNTY, Third District—No waterfowl hunting in this county on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays or Fridays! The use of motors prohibited on Lake Iamonia and Lake Jackson during open season for waterfowl.

BOATS FOR WATERFOWL—Migratory game birds may be taken from a boat or other craft with motor attached if such craft is fastened within or tied immediately alongside of any type of stationary blind or riding at anchor or beached.

HUNTING GUIDES—No person shall engage in the business of guiding hunters or hunting parties until he was secured a license to do so. No guide, while acting as a guide, shall take any game or carry shotgun or rifle.



GUNS—A gun is defined as any device mechanically propelling a projectile; shotgun, rifle, pistol, revolver, air gun, gas gun, blow-gun, bow and arrow, or other devices.



Hunting Season Regulations

Continued from preceding page

OCALA NATIONAL FOREST—The hunting season for deer in the Ocala National Forest will coincide with the season set for the Ocala Wildlife Management Area. Hunting of bear is prohibited in Ocala National Forest and Wildlife Management Area. All other game species may be hunted in the Forest outside the Management Area during the open season for the Fifth District from Nov. 16 to Feb. 23, provided that no dogs other than bird dogs can be used. No type of hound, including fox-hound, or dog of any type that can reasonably be considered to be a dog usable for running deer will be permitted to run free in the Ocala National Forest except during the hunting season set for the Ocala Wildlife Management Area.

BIRDS—No bird of any kind shall be taken or molested except game birds in open season, and the following unprotected species: English sparrow, starling, crow, black vulture, and turkey vulture.

UNPROTECTED—Skunk, opossum, flying squirrel, red and gray fox, bobcat, raccoon, nutria, armadillo, rats, mice, moles, shrews, reptiles (other than alligators and crocodiles), amphibians. (Local Exceptions.)

NON-NATIVE GAME—Coturnix quail, pheasant, and other non-native upland game birds may be hunted only during the open season for quail, except on licensed hunting preserves with special seasons. Jackson, Bradford and Union Counties **CLOSED** to taking of pheasant.

HUNTING DOGS—No person shall permit dogs to trail, pursue or otherwise molest game during closed seasons. Bird dogs may be trained during closed season for taking quail with the aid of a pistol firing a blank or ball; carrying or use of shotgun or rifle while training bird dogs is prohibited. Deer dogs may be trained during closed season for taking deer when dogs are constantly attached to leash or rope in hands of trainer; carrying or use of firearms while training deer dogs is prohibited. Retrievers used in dove hunting during the closed season for quail must be kept on leash except when actually retrieving doves. Organized field trials for dogs may be run at any time after obtaining written permission from the Director of the Commission.

DIVIDING CARCASSES—Deer and turkey may be divided in camp or forest but in the event of such division each portion shall be identified by the number of the license of the person killing it and be readily traceable to the portion of the animal bearing the sex identification provided that it is not necessary to affix the license number as required above to portions cut from the carcass immediately prior to being consumed in camp.

DO NOT DISCHARGE FIREARMS—State law provides that discharge of firearms in any public place, or on or over any paved public road, highway, street or occupied premises is prohibited.

DO NOT HUNT—There is **NO OPEN SEASON** on the following fully protected species or individuals: Panther, cub bear, Key deer, alligators, crocodiles, spotted or Axis deer, Ross goose, snow goose, brant, swan, eagles, hawks, owls, non-game birds, Everglades mink, weasel. Do not molest or hunt any of the foregoing at any time. Killing of doe or fawn deer, or deer with antlers less than five inches in length is prohibited at all times except as permitted on specific Wildlife Management Areas.

DO NOT SELL OR BUY—Selling or purchasing of game is prohibited, except for pen-raised game produced on a licensed game farm and properly identified and handled as provided by law and regulation of the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission.

DO NOT CARRY FIREARMS—Carrying firearms or guns during closed season, (or without a hunting license during open season), is prohibited in National Forests and in State-owned or State-controlled Wildlife Management Areas.

BAITING OR LURING—Game may not be taken under any circumstances by the aid of salt, or shelled or shucked or unshucked corn, wheat, or other grains, or other feed or means of feeding similarly used to lure, attract, or entice such game to, on, over the area where hunters are attempting to take them. As used herein, the terms "shelled or shucked or unshucked corn, wheat, or other grains," or "other feed or means of feeding similarly used," shall not be construed as including grain properly shocked in the field where grown, standing crops (including aquatics), flooded standing crops, flooded harvested crop lands, or grains found scattered solely as a result of normal agricultural planting or harvesting.

TRANSPORTATION—Game may be transported only as personal baggage and only in numbers consistent with possession limits as herein provided. Common carriers or employees, while engaged in such business, shall not transport as owner or for another, any game or parts thereof, or birds' nest or eggs, nor receive or possess for shipment unless owner of package is in possession of valid permit from Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission.

DAMAGE TO PERSONAL PROPERTY—Upon request to the Director, permits may be issued for the killing, taking or removal of certain individuals of specific types of wildlife which are proven to be damaging personal property. The Director reserves the right to have such animals trapped and removed to wilderness areas. Hides or skins of such animals may be claimed by the Commission for sale to highest bidder.

ALLIGATORS—CROCODILES

All alligators and crocodiles of any size, and their nests, eggs, and young, are fully protected at all times in all parts of the state. Do not hunt, take or molest at any time.

NO PERSON MAY TAKE or possess any alligator, crocodile or black caiman, or their skins or hides or nests or eggs except under permit from the Director of the Commission.

SOUTH AMERICAN CAIMAN of any size, other than the Black Caiman, may be imported and sold when not advertised or represented as alligators. Wherever Caiman are advertised as "Baby Alligators" the words "South American Caiman" must be shown immediately beneath the words, and in letters not less than half the size of the words or letters, used in writing "Baby Alligator." No alligator or American crocodile may be sold. Dealers are subject to inspection and must possess invoices or documentary evidence that such caiman were imported.

DO NOT USE—It is prohibited to use any of the following methods or weapons while hunting: Full-jacketed bullets or .22-calibre rimfire cartridges for taking deer or bear. Fully automatic firearms. Rifles or pistols for taking migratory birds. Cross bow. Taking game over bait. Hunting turkey with dog. Possession of gun and light at night in woods or on waters. Killing swimming deer. Artificial light, fire. Net, trap, snare. Poison. Saltlick. Setguns. Live decoys, Airplane, automobile, power boat, sail boat, or craft under sail, or craft towed by any aforementioned devices. Do not use any of the above while hunting in Florida.

GAME MANAGEMENT AREAS

You can hunt in Florida's Wildlife Management Areas which are open to controlled public hunting. The Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission operates Wildlife Management Areas throughout the state. These areas are open to controlled public hunting during portions of the 1963-64 season. Information as to locations of the Wildlife Management Areas, and as to permits, licenses, rules and regulations applying to the Areas may be obtained from the offices of the County Judges or the offices of the Commission. Some of the finest of Florida's hunting lands are included in the Wildlife Management Areas of Florida.

Game Never Had It So Good

By J. P. LINDUSKA
Remington Arms Company

HUNTERS AFIELD don't always get a rabbit, a pheasant, or a Canada goose, but they hope to. And, in this hope, the hunting fraternity pays annually about 150 million dollars into the game management kitty. The money goes to buy land; to restore and improve habitat; and to do research, so that every whim of wildlife can be met.

The motive, of course, is purely selfish. Hunters pay more with the expectation that they'll get more. But to get more game there has to be more. And so it is that game species are sheltered, protected, and produced in quantity so that, finally, a fair portion of each fall crop can be converted to the stew pot or broiler.

There's a moral, or an economic lesson, in all this. And according to Remington's Wildlife Management Division, here's the way it figures.

Bluebirds are in short supply. Some claim they're a victim of the flit gun; others say clean-up forestry and the removal of den trees has resulted in a housing shortage. The fact is no one really knows. But, if the bluebird weighed a pound and held to a pointing dog—then, we'd know. And we'd be doing something about it.

The wood duck is a disappointment over a pointing dog. But it fits neatly in the mouth of a Labrador. It weighs a pound and is good eating; and, after all that, it serves well the needs of fly tiers. Wood ducks, too, had problems of housing shortage, but not for long. Across the country dens were provided in quantity, and research to establish its other needs is going on apace. Things for the woodie are looking up.

The bald eagle—our national bird—is on the skids. It's getting surveys-of-its-status, nominal research, and a lot of sympathy. But as for a determined, well-financed management program—nothing. But antelope, a huntable game species, were also on the ropes a few decades back. They got lots of attention and help, and a big new lease on life.

All this is not to say that the way to save bluebirds and bald eagles is to declare them game and hunt them. But it is fair to say that game species are privileged species, and money in quantity is spent in support of their welfare. It is fair to say that hunters are not about to abuse and destroy something they cherish and pay good money to produce in numbers. And it is fair to say that responsible adminis-

trators of game affairs are not about to risk jobs and reputations in unwise use of the game resource.

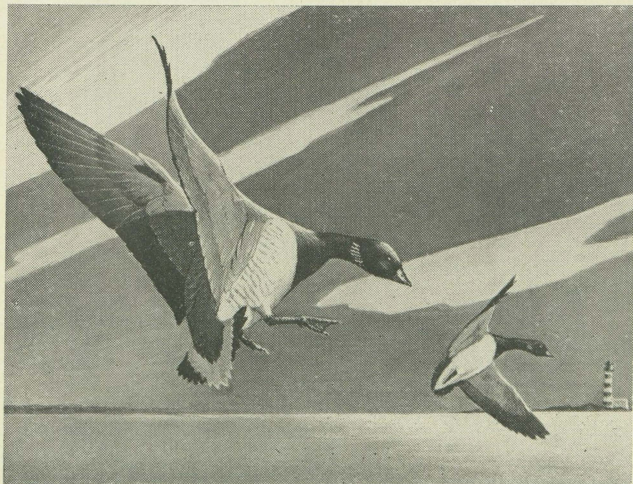
We strongly favor and support the better management of non-game as well as game species, and believe wildlife can serve admirable purposes without gracing the dinner table. We respect the interest of non-consumptive users of wildlife while pointing out that hunting, as a consumptive use, is not one to affect any permanent reduction in numbers. All told, it's a fair claim that game species, because of investments in their behalf, are far better off numerically than if they were not being hunted and, with it, not being provided for in terms of land reserves and habitat improvement.

It's a fact, too, that a lot of the management for game species rubs off on non-game associates. Take, for example, the \$105 million treasury loan to purchase and manage land for waterfowl. Duck hunters will pay the bill, but the benefits will extend beyond the primary intent of safeguarding producing areas for ducks. A great host of songbirds, shorebirds, and other marsh inhabitants will be benefitted in equal degree. And who's to argue whether a rose hedge for game is worth more for rabbits and quail or the endless variety of non-game types.

Protectionists, sincere but misled, may argue for the "protection" of doves and other game species. But the fact is that it's nice to be wanted and that's why game never had it so good. Without habitat, which hunters are providing, many species could be "protected" to vanishing levels by the indifference that comes to the non-hunted. Game for hunting means eating your cake and having it, too. ●

WATERFOWL HUNTERS

Make certain you have a 1963-64 Federal Migratory Waterfowl Hunting Stamp before hunting waterfowl. Available from your local post office at a cost of \$3.00, the stamp is required of ALL waterfowl hunters 16 years of age or older. Your name must be signed in ink across the face of the stamp before you hunt. The current "Duck Stamp" features Atlantic Brant.



THEY NOW MAKE A baitcasting reel that costs \$100 and I am glad of it because plug casting has needed a little dignity.

It's hard for me to think of plug casting as other than basic but many will skip that kind of fishing entirely in favor of spinning gear.

You have to justify talking or writing about baitcasting these days.

About plugging:

It is more accurate than spinning for 90 percent of its users.

It will throw further than spinning gear if properly balanced.

It will operate smoothly with much stronger lines than will spinning tackle.

It throws bigger lures from medium weight outfits.

It gives the fisherman better control over his lure.

It is less work than spinning.

It's tops for top-water lures.

Accuracy of the plug outfit stems from the fact that most of us can thumb a turning spool much more delicately than we can finger the side of a spinning reel.

Both will throw far enough but the spinning outfit runs into line slap and guide friction which are only minor problems with plug outfits.

An ordinary fresh-water casting outfit will work very nicely with 20-pound test braided line and you can go even heavier if you want to.

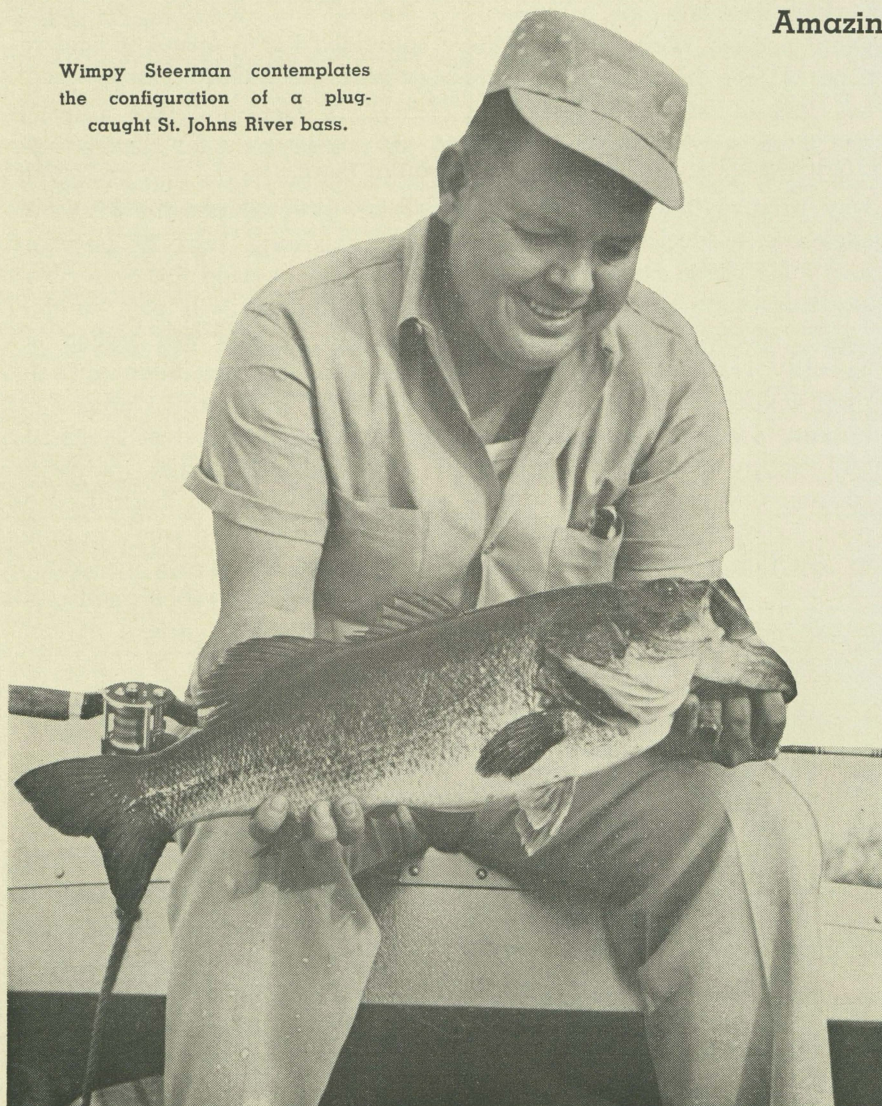
Florida bass often prefer big lures and you can toss them as big as an ounce with the same plug outfit that works with half-ouncers.

A ready thumb can give control of the baitcasting lure the instant it hits water.

Baitcasting is less work than spinning if you do a lot of it. The plugging reel is set close to the rod handle and the cranking hand doesn't have all the twisting leverage that a coffee-grinder type spinning reel provides. In my experience the hardest part of using a spinning rod is hanging on tightly enough that the whole outfit won't wobble when you turn that big, long crank. Children and ladies often speak up pretty frankly about this. We he-men don't mention our sore forearms.

Baitcasting is ahead of spinning in working noisy

Wimpy Steerman contemplates the configuration of a plug-caught St. Johns River bass.



**Amazing things can be done with
an ordinary, bass-weight
plugging outfit**

TRY A PLUG ROD!

By **CHARLES WATERMAN**

surface baits. There's more control and the rod tip is usually a bit stiffer.

Unless you have both outfits you aren't completely equipped.

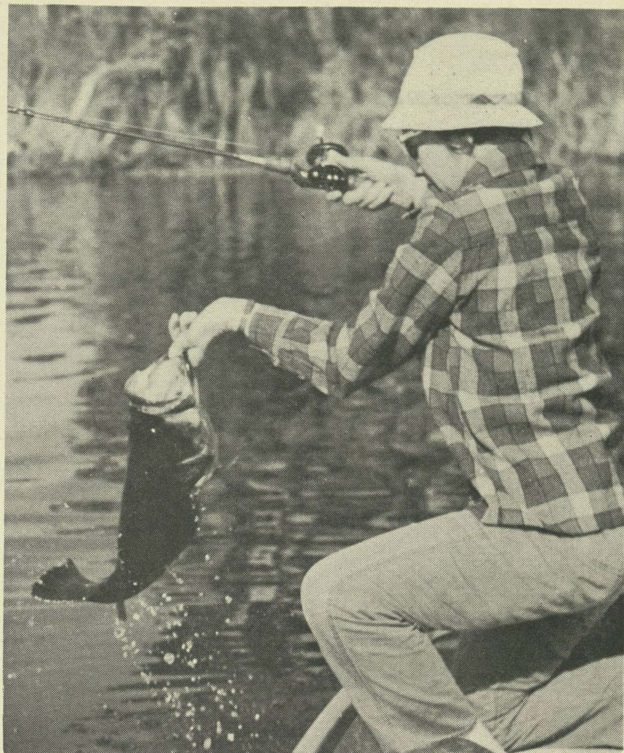
If we'd always had the baitcasting reels we have now the chances are that spinning never would have taken over.

Nearly every big manufacturer has turned out a free-spooling casting reel in recent years. That means the handle isn't engaged when you make a cast. Thus the spool runs more easily. You disengage the handle with a button before you cast and when you wind it automatically snaps back into gear.

Although we'd had such reels for tournament and heavy salt water work for a long time, it took the Swedish Ambassadeur, marketed by the Garcia Corporation, to set the trend in light plugging tackle. The Ambassadeur is still near the top of the heap and justifiably so because it's an excellent piece of equipment. The de luxe model costs a hundred bucks.

Until the last 18 or 20 years it was hard to get a "fast" baitcasting reel (one with little "flywheel" action as the lure is cast). All of the free-spoolers are "fast" and there are some others, notably the "direct drives" and other nylon-gearred reels as well as some with ultra-light metal gears. Nearly all bait-casting reels have been speeded up.

A fast reel is less prone to backlash. A true backlash is a distinctive kind of line tangle. The line starts the spool turning rapidly and then slows up; the reel continues to run and throws the line all over the spool in a series of loops. The critical instant in backlashing comes when the lure has



The author's wife, Debbie, picks up a big one on a Hawaiian Wiggler.

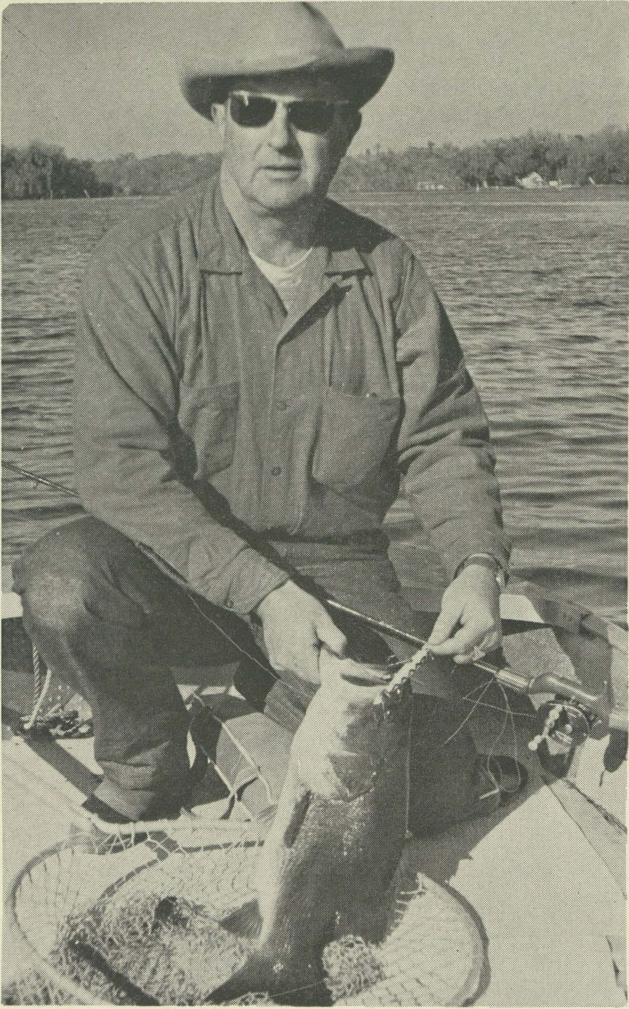
about used up its original momentum and is slowing preparatory to plopping into the water. If there isn't some sort of restraint on the whirling spool at this moment you're in trouble.

A good caster uses a gently applied thumb, possibly aided by mechanical braking power applied to the spool shaft through "drag" adjustment. Years ago there were hundreds of anti-backlash devices,

(Continued on next page)

The man on the stern plays a 100-pound-plus tarpon in the Everglades National Park.





The author caught this one on a chilly day, plugging with a Shakespeare torpedo-type.

(Continued from preceding page)

most of which have been forgotten. Now it's usually just simple spool-end adjustment.

With an average outfit the caster probably uses no drag at all, relying on his thumb entirely. With very light lures he needs something.

The Ambassador has an original and efficient anti-backlash device in the form of a centrifugal brake, employing little sliding blocks. Just take my word that it works. This reel is bulkier and a little more complex than most casting reels.

In casting at night, I find spool tension a decided help. When I don't see the plug my thumb doesn't get the message too well.

Years ago, a lot of night casters fished with the click on. The shriek of the click informed the fisherman something of the progress of the plug through the air and the resultant braking action prevented overruns. It sure was rough on clicks!

For the most plug casting, monofilament runs a poor second to braided line but when you get down to very light lines, it's better. Mono is tougher to cast although it can give you a lot of distance.

Braided line picks up a little water and sticks just a little to the spool as it runs out—just a little. That keeps it from burring up and tangling. When mono

burrs up it's worse than just an ordinary backlash. Mono requires more careful thumbing and generally won't stand for quite so much of a snap in the cast.

Charley Wray of Winter Park, who is an expert at mono casting with a plugging outfit, says he always throws a "soft" cast with monofilament. You have to look closely to tell the difference in such a cast but the difference is there. Less wrist snap.

For shoreline casting on black bass I'll take braided line because I get better accuracy but I don't use braided line finer than 10-pound test. Smaller than that it's pretty delicate.

Extra hard braid takes on some of the undesirable characteristics of monofilament. Extra soft braids collect too much water, cast sloppily and spray you on every cast.

By the time you learn to cast well you don't have many backlashes but at about that time you learn to untangle them pretty easily anyway. In giving an exhibition of casting the other day I got carried away and announced I would show how to cause a backlash. The resultant birdnest was a bit beyond my fondest hopes so I waited until I got home to untangle it, figuring a sharp knife would be a great help. Surprisingly I undid the mess in a couple of minutes. I guess I've had a lot of practice and it's never quite as bad as it looks.

Anyway, it doesn't even compare to what some casters call a "snazzle" on a spinning reel. That happens when about 40 loops of line decide to hop off the spool at once during a cast. It usually results from an overloaded spool.

The star drag that comes on some of the free spool reels enables the baitcaster to play long-running, big fish without losing his thumb. However, the true star drag is not permitted in the baitcasting class of many fishing contests because it can be "adjusted while playing the fish."

Fish so caught must be entered in the "general division."

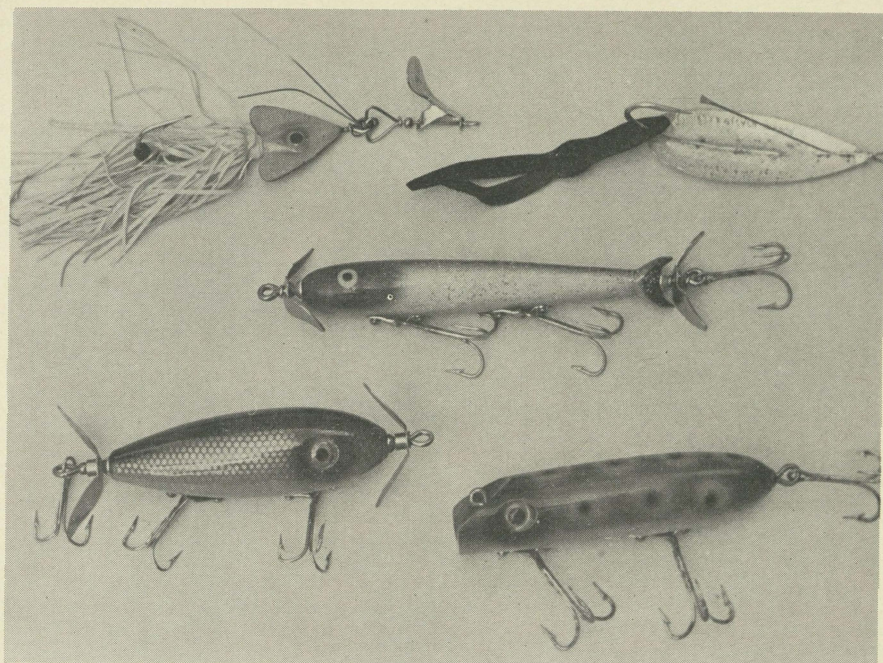
Until advent of the improved drag the little "cub" or "slip-clutch" drag was about all you could have put on your plugcasting reel. They were all right for limited use but weren't so hot if you were trying to play something like a bonefish that is likely to run more than 100 yards.

Nevertheless, it is likely that the Pflueger Supreme reel, with the addition of a little slip clutch, has caught more big fresh and saltwater fish than any other baitcasting outfit. They now make a free spool model.

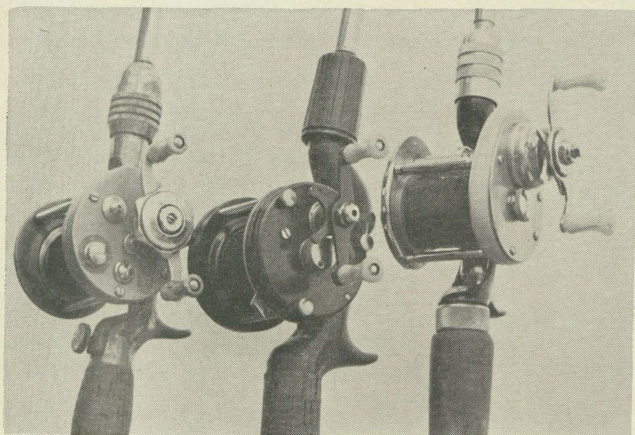
The Supreme wasn't particularly fast in its early days.

I used to know a bass fisherman named Carl

A good basic assortment of baitcasting lures. At top, from left, Hawaiian Wiggler and Johnson Spoon with black pork rind. Center is an underwater torpedo-type bait, in this case a Tarpicuda. From left, bottom, the B-W Spinner surface plug, and the Bass-Oreno.



Free-spoolers, from left: Pflueger Supreme, Garcia Ambassadeur, and South Bend.



Moyer of Sanford, Florida, who used a stiff casting rod, a Pflueger Supreme reel, 15-pound test line and a quarter-ounce Creek Chub Darter. Don't ask me how but he could cast the fool thing like a bullet. It was a case of long practice and living with that kind of an outfit. His thumb was attuned to the delicate pressures necessary.

My advice to the fellow just taking up baitcasting is to get a fast reel (either a free-spooler or one with light gears), a rod from five to six feet long, about 15-pound test braided line and some lures that weigh around 5/8-ounce. Later he can go to lighter and heavier lures and lines. He should learn to cast with a quick, snapping motion to begin with. Later the backhands, sideswipes and lobbing casts will come easily. The wrist should do most of the work if you're to be accurate.

If you're going out to get some 5/8-ounce lures you may have to take some scales with you. Of late, manufacturers have coyly neglected to mark the weights on the boxes.

I'll suggest some that would be a good start for a beginning baitcaster, probably a guy who also has a spinning outfit for lighter lures. I'm not telling you that these lures are the very best but they are good ones and representative. Don't get a whole boxful that are too nearly alike.

Include a plug that floats at rest and dives on the retrieve and can also be used as a popping, slowly-worked surface plug—say a South Bend Bass Oreno.

You need a good weedless spoon for use over grass beds and in coontail moss and bonnets (lily pads)—say a Johnson Weedless spoon with a real or imitation porkrind.

Let's have a surface plug with a spinner fore and aft and there's one called the B-W Spinner made by the Humphrey Bait Company, Jasonville, Indiana.

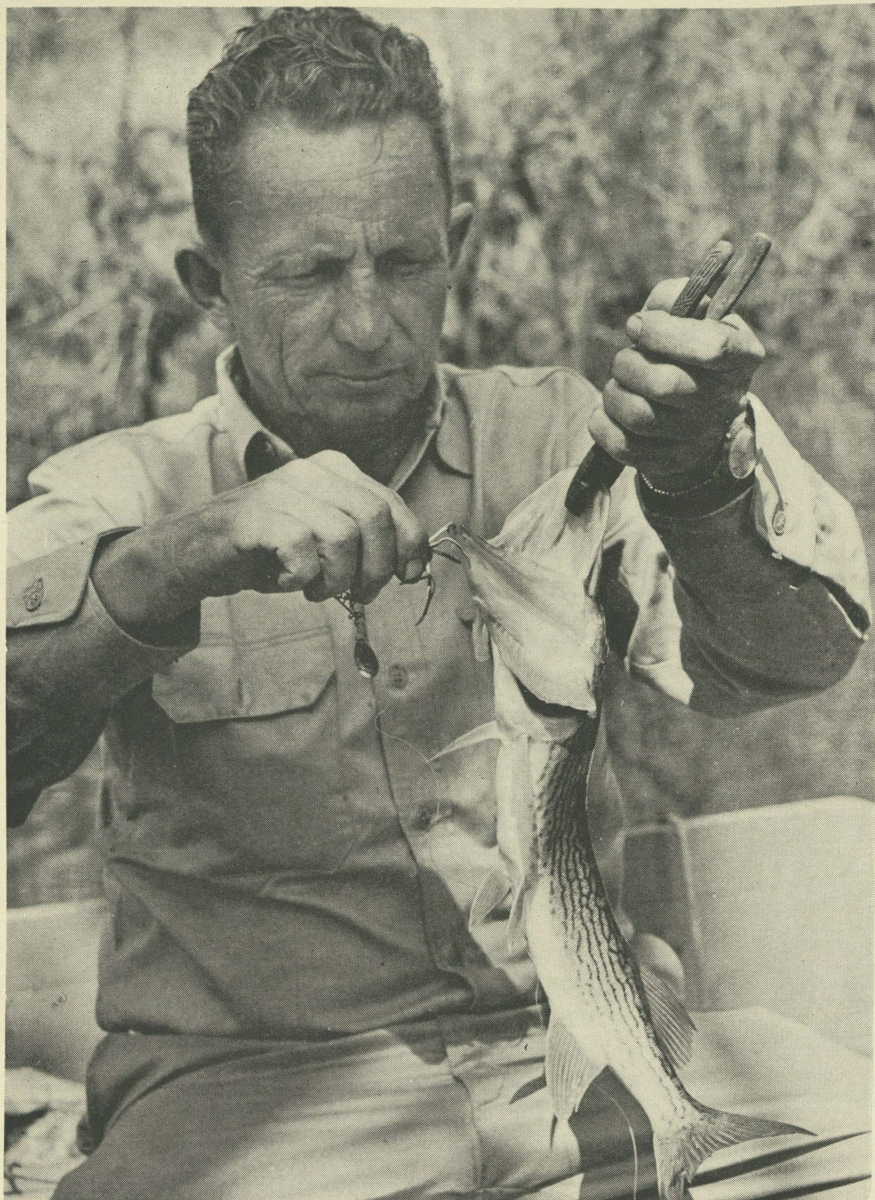
For a skirted weedless bait for vegetation-filled waters, I like the Hawaiian Wiggler and in Florida they usually get a yellow skirt with it.

You won't go wrong on an old-fashioned sinking type with spinners front and back—like a Tarpicuda. That's usually called a "torpedo" bait.

A diver with a long metal lip is handy but I don't generally list it with the first five.

By keeping these types in mind you might go out and buy five completely different baits but still have a similar collection. Think in terms of types rather than makes.

The purchase of baitcasting rods has been complicated lately by the advent of the stick with stiff butt section and a very flexible tip. I don't care much for these because I was raised on more gradual tapers but I can see merit in the new ones in that they are adaptable to a wide variety of lure
(Continued on page 34)



Pliers are used to hold the fish while removing hook, in due respect of the pickerel's sharp teeth and gill covers.

By RUSSELL TINSLEY

THAT ACROBAT, THE PICKEREL

This long, slim battler shows up in
some of the darndest places!

WE WERE FISHING the Kissis-simmee River in central Florida, this visitor from Chicago and I. I was casting my frog-colored surface plug around the hycinaths when suddenly I heard my companion squeal.

"I've got one," he yelped. "I've got a good one."

I looked around just as the fish jumped. It came out of the water like a piece of spring steel, whipping well above the surface, its slim body a blur of motion. There was no mistaking that fish.

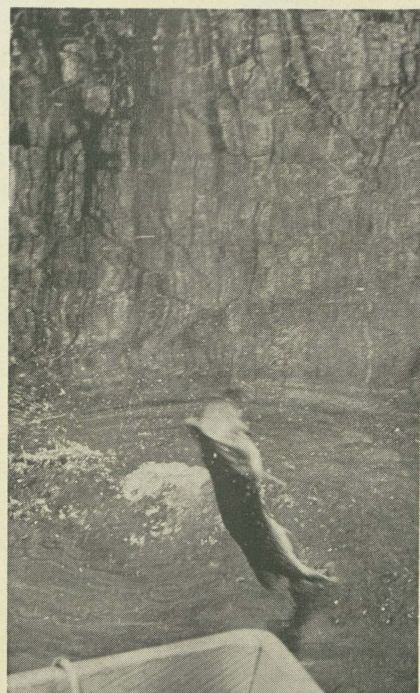
"You've got yourself a pickerel," I said.

The fish jumped again. If anything, this leap was higher and more spectacular than the first.

"A . . . a . . . a . . . what?" the man stammered between clinched teeth as the fish got airborne for a third time.

"Pickerel," I emphasized, reached overboard with the landing net as the fish came to bay. Scooping it up, I gingerly removed it from the net mesh by clamping its lower jaw with a pair of pliers, in

A pickerel comes catapulting from the water, right at the boat.



due respect for the sharp gill covers.

"See, just an old chain pickerel," I said. "Want to keep 'im?"

Dave examined the fish closely. "Is it good to eat?"

"Some people think so," I explained. "But I don't cater to it much. Too bony."

"Let's keep it anyway," Dave said.

Later, back at the dock, he revealed what he intended to do with the two-pound pickerel.

"I'm going to pack this thing in dry ice and take it back to Chicago with me," he said. "Otherwise, no one would ever believe I caught anything like it in Florida."

It was an unusual reaction . . . but typical.

The chain pickerel is fairly widespread throughout Florida, being found primarily in large rivers and lakes. Locals know it better by the nicknames jackfish or pike. It is, by nature, a loner and seldom will you catch two from the same spot. The pickerel belongs to the same family as the northern pike and muskellunge

found in cold northern waters. A three-pound pickerel is a good one, and anything beyond that is a real trophy.

Pickerel favor some sort of cover and habitually can be found lurking around weed beds. The favorite bait for catching them is a spinner lure, although I've had them hit topwater plugs at times. The chain pickerel is a distinctive fish and the only other species remotely resembling it, in Florida anyway, is the redbfin pickerel, found as far south as the Okeechobee area. But the redbfin generally runs much smaller, rarely exceeding twelve inches in length. The coloration also is different. On a chain pickerel both the cheek and operculum are entirely scaled and the markings along the sides consist of black, chain-like patterns on a yellowish background. The redbfin pickerel, on the other hand, carries nearly vertical bars along the sides and has a shorter snout.

Despite being fairly abundant, the chain pickerel nonetheless remains a fishing enigma. Like my angling companion from Chicago, many visitors find it difficult to

believe that such a fish inhabits Florida waters. While the black bass has captured the publicity and plaudits, the pickerel has gone almost unnoticed. That is, unnoticed until it latches onto the business end of someone's fishing line. Then it lets its presence be known quite dramatically.

Above the water it comes . . . once, twice, three times. Its narrow body whips back and forth wildly, its gills are flared, mouth is gaped. What it lacks in size it compensates with a furious burst of energy. The pickerel isn't long on stamina, but while it is able to fight, it gets with it spectacularly.

And pickerel sometimes show up in the darndest places. I can remember a time when we'd pulled off the highway to take a break in our travels and try a few casts in the Tamiami Canal. On my first toss with a yellow spinner bait, something nailed it, and almost instantly the distinctively slim body of a pickerel came catapulting skyway. You can be moving along a lake, casting for bass,

(Continued on page 33)

Many pickerel inhabit the rivers of Florida.



DOGS - HUNTING

(Continued from page 9)

each event and picked up by the owners thirteen year old daughter Doris who displayed as much pride and determination as did the owner and the hound.

The days events was concluded by a most unusual contest which tested the merit and speed of the coon hunters rather than the hounds. A coon sacking contest unusual as it sounds created almost as much attention and excitement as did the field trial. In this event a team of coon hunters competed against the stop watch in their efforts to shake a coon from a tree, catch the critter and then deposit it in a sack. This event incidently was completed in seconds, not in minutes, and displayed the skill achieved by these coon hunters.



The streamlined grade class black and tan hound "Slim" poses proudly with co-owner, 13-year old Doris Jones of Crestview, Fla., after winning three of the four trophy events.

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MUZZLE FLASHES

(Continued from page 7)

or a good grade gun oil was a favorite for long storage. Some of the mentioned products are still around and in somewhat improved form, but they are being pushed hard by the silicone solutions and special developments, like Tom Rice's.

Shotgun shells that absorb moisture in their waxed paper tubes soon swell and become practically worthless. Even if they feed into autoloaders and pumps without scuffing or sticking, they are sure to slow down loading and ejection operations. Those that are badly bulged of case usually won't chamber at all.

Introduction by Remington several years ago of an all plastic tube, truly waterproof shell has solved the wet shell problem for those hunters who have already tried the plastic case shells.

They are absolutely waterproof—unless you deliberately puncture their tough cases with something in the nature of an ice pick.

I've test fired shells left immersed in a bucket of water for a full month. After their exteriors had been wiped dry, they chambered and fired like fresh-out-of-the-box shells.

After I use up my present supply of paper tube shells, I intend to purchase and reload the plastics exclusively.

(Where old style paper tube shells are carried afield, it is a good idea to repackage the contents of a factory box in five individual plastic bags, five shells to a bag, each folded tight and sealed. In the field or duck blind, you can tear open the bags as you need shells. Those not needed stay dry for later use.)

The plastic shot control collars that both Remington and Winchester are embodying in their premium grade shotshells are certainly tightening up the shot pattern delivered by the average shotgun, whatever its choke boring.

New this season are buck shot loads featuring plastic shot control sleeves. Even the normally unreliable No. 0 and 00 buck shot sizes deliver better patterns than

formerly. The result is fewer deformed, wild-flying, wasted pellets, more hits on big-game targets like deer and wild hogs. Deer hunters who use a shotgun and buck shot are sure to like the new loads. ●

**TIPPER FLINTLOCK**

says...

"If you're going hunting along with your son, teach him well how to use his gun!"

THE NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION teaches shooting safety

CONSERVATION EDUCATION

(Continued from page 5)

reservation. Whole families made up a team, and some individual Indians could pick more than 60 quarts a day. Sold at 10 a quart this was considered a big day's wages 50 years ago.

Picking raspberries was something else again. Often the largest berries were along the edge of a woods or fence row where they received a mixture of sunshine and shade. Unless one was hardy it was no place to go barefoot. Soon swarms of mosquitoes would start their high singing whine and produce an occasional lump; and, of course, there were hornets to watch out for—especially to avoid stepping on their nests.

The sun always seemed hottest in the berry patch, with numerous "itches" developing that had to be scratched. Frequent trips to the water jug brought the comment, "Now don't drink too much water or you'll get sick—and stop eating all your berries."

But there was a discouragement in eating berries when one had a quota to fill before starting home, and mothers always had the propensity of finding another "good patch" and lingering on when all the rest of the family were ready to trudge down the dusty road to village or farmstead.

Blackberries! One had to be hardy to storm their thorny fort! A blackberry bramble was something to penetrate, and the thorns could pierce the stoutest denim. There was one compensation; they filled the pail fast.

But berry picking had educational advantages. One learned to avoid poison ivy, hornets' nests, and how to wriggle through the bushes without getting all scratched up. There were always birds flitting about, some singing, others scolding; and now and then a nest with empty egg shells would be discovered. There would be squirrels, scurrying woodchucks, or possibly a fox; and on rare occasions the day might be greatly enlivened by a big black bear rearing up on the opposite side of a thicket to challenge the right of occupancy. This always brought a hasty retreat by all concerned, followed by much agitation and a council of war. Such an incident was worthy of much bragging throughout the neighborhood.

But returning home after a long hot day did not complete the job. The berries had to be "picked over." This was another task for the youngsters, but could be done in the shade of the back porch. In the meantime mother got the wash boiler on the cook stove and scalded jars.

This all went along with cooking supper, and by the time the outside chores were done and the jars taken out of the boiler, it was the job of the man of the house to tighten the covers and put the jars upside down on old newspapers to cool and to see that none leaked. There were always fresh berries for every meal

with an added compensation of fresh pie.

Summers were busy times in those days, along with making cucumber and watermelon pickles, and current and gooseberry jelly. By September it was time to "put up" crabapple pickles and sauerkraut; and where I lived, expeditions were made to distant marshes after the first frost to rake wild cranberries. That was always with team and wagon, and some time was devoted to ruffed grouse hunting.

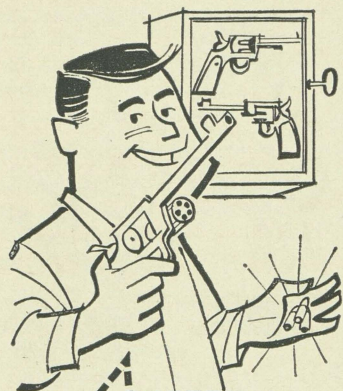
Butchering came in October, both pigs and beef. Few lads learn anatomy today by standing in a chill, fall wind and scraping a porker, and see it hung and split for cooling. And there were always profound debates over the proper ingredients of the liquor to cure them; salt, saltpeter and brown sugar. And finally the rich smell of smoke and meat from the smokehouse. And, of course, there was sausage, headcheese, blood pudding, and corned and dried beef.

Many a citizen of yesteryear learned his or her first outdoor lessons in the berry patch, where fathers and mothers pointed out wildflowers, herbs, trees, shrubs and birds. Simple facts were mixed with folklore, but most important it created an interest which expanded with maturity.

Today the term conservation education covers a wide range of interest which expanded with maturity.

Today the term conservation education covers a wide range of interests and attitudes. Some teachers start beginners with field trips comparable to the berry patch traditions. Others give the subject an academic "lick and promise;" and we now have professional recreationists whose synthetic teachings have absolutely nothing in common with the homely observations that result from a tramp through the fields and woods.

As a family tradition, berry picking today is considered very



TIPPER FLINTLOCK
says . . .

*"If staying alive is your
main ambition—
empty out that ammunition!"*

*Store your gun in a good,
safe place—
and remain a member of
the human race!"*

**THE NATIONAL RIFLE
ASSOCIATION** teaches
shooting safety

plebeian; fathers and mothers play golf on week ends, and even in small communities where opportunities are the greatest, fail to teach their children the simple facts of the out-of-doors.

How many children gather hazel nuts to put on a shed roof to dry, or gather hickory or butter nuts? How many know where their breakfast bacon comes from? Such thrift, such pleasures and such education would destroy the family status in the neighborhood. It just isn't done today. But

I am afraid we will keep on with our shallow illusions of conservation education and allow some of the most fruitful and endearing experiences of life to be bypassed by ignorance and false standards. Outdoor education begins on the land with the classroom, and other activities as a supplement.

But back to the original thesis. All the hard work was forgotten on a blustery winter afternoon when Mom said, "Take the lantern and a couple of dishes and go down cellar and get some kraut,

pigknuckles and dills. They are in the big crocks in the corner. And bring up a can of blueberries—I think I'll make a pie."

Progress has eliminated all the so-called hard work and the vitamins, unless taken in pills; but the smells, tastes and memories of old fashioned home cooking still linger; and with the older generation, the outdoor lessons learned in the berry patch and of survival in general still contribute to the cause of conservation—believe it or not. ●

THE BIG THREE

(Continued from page 16)

Wild hogs are where you find them, but certain areas—Palm Beach county, the Everglades, Camp Blanding, Fisheating Creek, Farmton, Richloam, Croom, Citrus, Avon Park, to name a few of the more popular wild hog hunting areas—have heavier populations than others.

For hunters with healthy hearts, steady nerves and who possess ability to handle a gun fast and accurately, hunting the wild boar of the Florida Everglades and on undeveloped acreage adjoining cattle ranges and apiaries guarantees plenty of fast action and excitement.

The Florida boar may not be the blue-blooded stock of the wild boar hunted in India, Russia and the Black Forest of Germany, but his kind have been running wild in the Florida scrub for generations, possibly since the days of the Spaniards. The Florida wild boar is tough, wicked-looking, mean and short tempered, and generally smarter and more wary than a deer.

He's fast, too! Resident hunters avowedly claim that on level ground there isn't a horse in the state that can out-run the long-tusked quarry over the first hundred yards of a hot chase.

When the Florida boar elects to stand his ground and fight pursuing dogs and man—as he often does—he is a dangerous foe, ca-

pable of charging with lightning speed and explosive destruction.

The best times to hunt these vicious kings of the Florida scrub are during the early morning and late afternoon periods, when the boars are foraging for food. During the heat of the day they habitually bed down in thick, cool undergrowth and, except when trailing dogs rout them from their beds, are seldom seen of mid-day.

Wild hogs love to feed on succulent tubers buried in the mud bordering backwoods' lakes and ponds. In their foraging, the animals often create deep furrows.

Where there is evidence of regular or recent feeding, a lone hunter without a dog can take a stand overlooking the area—and wait. It is important that the stand be occupied well before the approaching hours of dawn or dusk, and that the stand be located so that animals coming into a feeding area will not scent or otherwise detect and avoid the waiting hunter.

A tree-stand within shooting range is fine. It will put you above ground scent level and provide a vantage point for slow, sweeping study of likely game-approach trails.

In the Everglades section, 20 miles west of Miami and 15 to 40 east of the Tamiami Trail, remote palmetto and mangrove islands dot expansive shallow water grasslands.

Sixty mile per hour airboats are generally preferred for trans-

portation of hunters and dogs to likely spots in this section.

Once a boar is sighted, dogs and hunters go overboard in dry land sections, where a hunter may expect close range encounter with a brush-hidden foe that may burst from concealment with surprising suddenness.

For either style, use a weapon with knockdown power, and be sure you know how to use it fast and expertly!

Center fire rifles chambered for calibers like the .35 Remington, .30-30 Winchester, .300 Savage, .308 Winchester, .280 Remington, .30-06 Springfield, .30-40 Krag, .358 Winchester, .270 Winchester, .264 Winchester and .44 Ruger Magnum pack all the power needed, at close range or long.

Shotguns preferably should be of repeating type, loaded with both rifled slugs and No. 1 or larger size buckshot. The wild hog is a sizeable target, fairly easy to hit when at standstill, but is one that is well protected by thick under-skin fat. Shotshell loads must be heavy enough of ball to readily penetrate to an animal's vitals. With the right loads, the shotgun is deadly on wild hogs, especially at close range, and where there are two or more hunters in a party, it is advisable to have at least one 12 gauge shotgun. Experience indicates that most shots are had at 30 yards or less. At such range, a shotgun can be very effective. ●

FISHING

(Continued from page 11)

ious as to the method of manufacture. Maybe this is revolutionary?

I now approach a delicate subject.

About nine years ago, some friends and I bought rod blanks from a well-known concern. There were a lot of them—probably a dozen in all, and they were made up into bait casting rods.

At almost the same time I acquired four fly rods from another reputable manufacturer and a spinning rod of top grade from a third concern. These 17 rods were acquired at about the same time and from three companies.

All of the rods gave good service and we were pleased with them.

Now for the punch line:

Within the past few months nearly half of the rods have broken and one has seemingly lost its action.

The only conclusion I can draw is that they all deteriorated with age.

I know that glass rods have come a long way in the past ten years. I wonder if there is a definite age limit for the older sticks? Is it different with the new ones? What's your experience?

Raingear for boat fishermen is a rough assignment.

Obvious choice is the hooded and sleeved pullover garment with a zipper in front. It is one of the driest looking and wettest feeling contraptions I've ever encountered. I guess the proper name for it is the sleeved poncho.

In my experience a hood is extremely unsatisfactory in heavy rain, whether you're in a moving boat or just fishing from a stationary position.

With one addition the poncho can be made satisfactory and will no longer deserve the name of "postponer" which damp and bitter fishermen have applied to it.

The addition is an old-fashioned



This rig will really keep you dry. It's the standard rain hood PLUS an old-fashioned rain hat pulled over the whole thing.

rain hat or "sou'wester", big enough to go over your head already covered by the hood.

The gimmick is that a hood will channel chilly little rivulets of laughing water right in to your shrinking, goose-pimpled skin. If you use the hat the water stays away from your neck.

I sometimes wonder if there is such a thing as a fisherman's gun. I'll confess that I don't carry one on fishing excursions although I'm in the advanced stages of gun nuttism and burn a lot of powder during a year's time.

The most popular fisherman's gun is a pistol, of course, since it will fit into a tackle box. Generally it is a twenty-two although I know of some fishermen who carry heavy artillery in shark water.

Now that you can buy telescopic sights for pistols, it just may be that this is the answer for the average angler wanting a firearm. Chances are he isn't good enough with a handgun to be too effective without some assistance from sighting equipment.

When is seafood spoiled? Well, it depends on who's going to do the eating. Fact is there are a lot of degrees of spoilage ranging

from the damage done to a dead fish that lies in the sun for a couple of hours to one that's been lying around all day. A fish that's cleaned immediately after catching and popped on ice is fresher than the odd one that dies on a stringer.

Some fishermen would bury fish that others consider fresh. It may be the degree of freshness and the care that's taken of fish that makes fish lovers or fish haters when dinner time comes.

Reminds me of the remark about venison that goes:

"A man who doesn't like venison simply never ate any that was treated right."

When you consider the progress of the average deer from swamp to table you are inclined to think he has something and fish are in the same category.

Some of the most accurate casters with spin-cast (push-button) reels have developed a technique for "feathering" the line to control casting distance. Despite the glowing promises of a few years back, manufacturers haven't come up with anything in the spin-cast department that can be "feathered" with the thumb. In my experience it's either going or stopped.

Well, these folks I'm talking about haul off with a normal cast and while the bait's in the air they slide a thumb from the other hand along the line as it pays out. I tried to make fun of the method but my humor fell flat. It isn't hard to do and it works. You can use three hands if you want to. Please don't bother me about it any more.

Certain spinners used for fresh water game fish may have sound or vibration as one of their main attractions. This factor is usually ignored by users and designers alike. Perhaps if someone wanted to get really scientific about the lure design business he could

record (with amplification) the underwater sounds produced by various lures. It's been done to a limited degree.

For years, certain lures have been advertised on the strength of the noises they produced.

One kind of noisemaker that can be heard by the user is the surface "splutter" type of spinner. Many Southern bass specialists have taken great pains to tune their "cluckers" with effective results.

My experience with spluttering surface spinners is scant except with regard to spinners built as a part of various surface plugs.

Although they sound much the same to me some of the Hawaiian Wiggler types of bait seem to have more attraction than others.

Where I've used the "cluckers" I've used them only briefly on top before letting them descend into grass or moss, hauling them up to the surface again for another brief splutter before letting them back down. Real clucker users often keep the lure on top for the entire retrieve.

As I look back, I believe I've had the majority of my strikes when the bait was under the surface. I figure the fish is attracted by the surface noise but doesn't strike until the lure comes down toward him. ●

THE PICKEREL

(Continued from page 27)

when all of a sudden one of the pickerel will take a liking to your offering, and the next thing you know the fish will be above the water, jumping as if in contempt of all fishermen. These pickerel can be unpredictable, all right.

Once I set out to catch myself a pickerel for a photograph I was needing to illustrate a magazine story I had in mind. For two days I fished every likely pickerel spot I could find. I caught black bass, okay, but no pickerel.

Then on my very next trip, when I could have cared less if I'd ever see another pickerel, I must have taken a half dozen or

CONSERVATION SCENE

(Continued from page 4)

Service officials expressed the hope that every hunter carries a copy of the booklet and studies it before he goes into the field so that he will be adept at recognizing various species.

In addition to hunters, "Ducks at a Distance" will interest conservationists, students, and others who enjoy observing birdlife, the Department said.

New Public Boat Ramp

THE GAME AND Fresh Water Fish Commission has completed work on a public boat ramp on the Econfina River at Highway 98 in Taylor County.

The launching ramp was constructed through a cooperative agreement between the Game Commission and the Board of County Commissioners of Taylor County. The county prepared the site and the concrete ramp was installed by the Game Commission.

Land for the ramp and adjacent parking area was donated by the Weaver Loughridge Lumber Company. This is the second such land given by the Company for a launching area.

R. L. Edwards, County Com-

missioner, stated, "I believe this ramp will be very useful to the fishermen of Taylor County, and I am always ready to assist with anything which will be of benefit to the fisherman."

The launching facility was constructed under the Game Commission's program to provide public access to fishing waters which are now inaccessible.

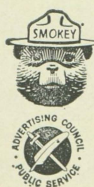
Hunting No Threat

THE NUMBER OF QUAIL—not hunters—determines how many of the sporty game birds are bagged each autumn, according to the Wildlife Management Institute. When weather and food cooperate to give the birds a good nesting season, hunters can expect to bag more in the fall. And fewer are taken when nesting does not go well. But no matter whether the birds are up or down, hunters take considerably less than even the most conservative bag and possession limits allow.

That hunters are no threat to resident game species has been known to wildlife biologists for many years. Proof has been gathered time and time again in careful field studies of unconfined populations of quail, pheasants, rabbits, squirrels and other animals where the effects of the extremes of complete protection and heavy cropping have been measured. Weather, food and cover—not shooting—are the determinants of game abundance.

Take, for example, this conclusion from a 10-year study by the Arizona Game and Fish Department in the Oracle Junction and Pinnacle Peak areas: "Probably the most important fact turned up was that the percent of the quail population taken by hunters is directly proportional to the size of the quail population. When quail numbers are down, not only less quail are shot but a smaller percent of the population is taken . . . The significance of this is obvious; when quail numbers are

(Continued on next page)



**HELP SMOKEY
BEAR PREVENT
FOREST FIRES
IN THE SOUTH!**

(Continued from preceding page)

low we need not close the season to prevent extermination of local populations, a fear frequently expressed by concerned sportsmen. We now know that as numbers drop and quail become more difficult to find, the bulk of the hunters simply give up. Those who do persist in hunting get little for their efforts except exercise and fresh air and give up long before they become a threat to the basic population.

"When we consider that natural mortality eliminates more than 50 percent of the population each year, we can understand why the population varies so much between years according to the size of the hatch."

Using sound biological information, progressive State wildlife agencies have found that shooting seasons can be lengthened, thereby providing more opportunity for outdoor recreation without jeopardizing the basic breeding stock of game animals. When it comes to biological determinations, facts always are superior to fiction, they find.

Nutria Recipes Offered

RECIPES FOR PREPARING one of North America's least desirable imports, the muskrat-like nutria, are offered in an attractive booklet of the Agricultural Experiment Station, Louisiana State

University and Agricultural and Mechanical College, the Wildlife Management Institute reports. The hefty marsh mammals, imported for fur purposes, occur widely in coastal and inland marshes. Their fur never did create much of a fashion stir, and the animals have few advocates among marsh managers, the muskrat trappers, and farmers.

One way to help control the animals, it appears, is to eat them. The new booklet, "Nutria for Home Use," may be obtained without charge from the Agricultural Experiment Station at LSU in Baton Rouge. Ask for Circular 77.

New Wildlife Manual

"WILDLIFE Investigational Techniques," a publication for practicing field biologists, wildlife administrators, and college instructors now is available for distribution in a revised edition. Edited for The Wildlife Society by Dr. Henry S. Mosby, professor of wildlife management at Virginia Polytechnic Institute, the 419-page manual is a broad summary and explanation of the best known practices currently applied in the game management field.

The new edition contains an additional chapter on instrumentation in wildlife investigations and a glossary. Several chapters of the earlier version also have been

combined. Copies may be ordered from The Wildlife Society, in care of the Virginia Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit, VPI, Blacksburg, Virginia, at \$4.50 postpaid, the Wildlife Management Institute reports.

Wildlife Restoration Funds

FLORIDA WILL RECEIVE an additional \$103,173.00 supplemental appropriation in federal aid through apportionment of Accelerated Public Work funds for use in fish and wildlife restoration during 1963, according to A. D. Aldrich, director, Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission.

Funds allocated to Florida for fish and wildlife restoration are available for capital improvements such as construction of fishing lakes, wildlife habitat improvement, development of water access areas, boat ramps, and other approved projects. Accelerated Public Work funds may be used for projects only in areas designated by the Department of Commerce as "eligible areas."

Federal funds appropriated through the Accelerated Public Works must be matched by funds on a local basis. The Federal share can be 75 per cent, 66 per cent, 58 per cent, or 50 per cent, depending on the area in which the project is located. Counties designated as eligible areas should contact the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission for more information regarding fish and wildlife restoration projects within such areas.

Aldrich said the Accelerated Public Work Funds and local matching funds can represent a real break-through in the field of fish and game conservation in the state of Florida. Prior to the supplemental appropriation, Florida has received \$197,307.00 in federal funds for fish and wildlife restoration.

Ornithologists have found that birds sing an average of 18¼ hours daily most of the year.

TRY A PLUG ROD

(Continued from page 25)

weights whereas the older type of action was more persnickity.

I'll neither recommend nor condemn the new tapers and perhaps your tackle dealer would let you try one.

At any rate, the action you want can be described as "medium" or "light-stiff". Check for a sturdy reel seat. Some of them are pretty flimsy.

Hollow glass is generally best but solid glass casting rods will

take a terrific beating. Bamboo is seldom seen in new casting rods. Impregnated bamboo, however, is very good.

Nearly all of the baitcasting rods used today have offset reel seats—that is the rod does not continue through the entire grip. This is more comfortable for most fishermen although the kind with the straight reel seat and with a rod that runs clear through to the butt is probably more rugged. Don't be too sure you wouldn't like the true one-piece rod until you try it. ●

FOR THAT
BIG ONE
THAT
DIDN'T
GET AWAY



FLORIDA WILDLIFE'S FISHING CITATION

is available without charge, to any and all subscribers to Florida Wildlife Magazine, and their immediate families, who catch any of the fresh-water game fish of the prescribed species and size requirements. Citation, showing recorded date of the catch, will be mailed to the applicant upon receipt of the following application form that has been properly filled out and signed.

Only fishing citation applications received within 90 days from date of catch will be honored.

APPLICATION FOR FLORIDA WILDLIFE FISHING CITATION

The Editor, FLORIDA WILDLIFE _____ Date _____
Game & Fresh Water Fish Commission, Tallahassee, Fla.

Please send me the Florida Wildlife Fishing Citation with the inscribed data listed below:

Name (please print) _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____

Species _____ Weight _____ Length _____

Type of Tackle _____

Bait or Lure Used _____

Where Caught _____ in _____ County

Date Caught _____ Catch Witnessed By _____

Registered, Weighed By _____ At _____

(Signature of Applicant)

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS SPECIES

LARGEMOUTH BASS

.....8 pounds or larger

CHAIN PICKEREL

.....4 pounds or larger

BLUEGILL (BREAM)

.....1 1/2 pounds or larger

SHELLCRACKER

.....2 pounds or larger

BLACK CRAPPIE

.....2 pounds or larger

RED BREAST

.....1 pound or larger

All fish must be taken from the fresh waters of the state of Florida, as defined by the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission. Fish must be caught on conventional fishing tackle, with artificial or live bait, in the presence of at least one witness.

The catch must be weighed and recorded at a fishing camp or tackle store within the state by the owner, manager, or an authorized agent of the respective establishment.

CUT OUT AND SAVE THIS APPLICATION BLANK



FROM ATOP THE RAMPARTS of the old fort, campers at Fort Pickens State Park, in Northwest Florida south of Pensacola, can see snowy white beaches, and ships plying the Gulf of Mexico sealanes.—F.S.N.B. Photo

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